

Saddam urges Iran to repatriate Iraqi prisoners, planes

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein urged Tehran Monday to free Iraqi prisoners held since the 1980-88 conflict between the two states and to return to Baghdad planes he sent to Iran for safekeeping during the Gulf war.

Only then, he said, "would relations be put back on the right track."

The Iraqi president's remarks came in a speech to mark the sixth anniversary of the end of the Iran-Iraq war.

In excerpts carried by the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) and monitored in Cyprus, President Saddam said Iran had "twice been manipulated by the enemies of the Arabs and Islam."

The first time, he said, was when "the Tehran rulers waged a war that lasted for eight years... then kept Iraqi prisoners even though we had released all theirs."

He said Tehran rulers later demonstrated "their blind animosity" by refusing to send back planes Iraq sent to Iran for safekeeping when U.S.-led coalition forces attacked Iraq and evicted its army from Kuwait during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

"Iraq's door for honest relations between Muslims and neighbours was and will remain open to everybody, including Iran," he said.

Iraq says it won the 1980-88 war against Iran and celebrates "Victory Day" on Aug. 8, which is when a U.N. sponsored ceasefire took hold.

Iran and Iraq have exchanged more than 75,000 prisoners of war since the end of the war, but the International Committee of the Red Cross says that there are still around 20,000 Iraqi soldiers in Iran and at least 1,000 Iranians in Iraq.

Iraq claims it sent 170 planes to Iran, but Iran said there were only 27. Iran had said it will keep the planes as partial payment for billions of

dollars in war damage it is seeking from Baghdad.

A newspaper published by President Saddam's eldest son, Uday, said on Sunday there was no sign the U.N. Security Council would ease curbs on its stringent trade blockade on Baghdad.

"Nothing has happened so far to indicate readiness of the superpowers to take unilateral actions to ease or lift the embargo," the newspaper Babel said in an editorial.

"The same thing applies to the other states which have been sending their delegations and businessmen to discuss cooperation with Iraq when the sanctions are lifted — but not before."

Sanctions, imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990, prohibit Iraqi exports of oil — virtually its only source of foreign earnings — and imports of anything except food and medicine.

The usual view of Iraq's state-controlled media was reflected in Al Thawra newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, which said sanctions had failed to humble Iraq and support for them was crumbling outside the United States.

However, Babel doubted the sincerity of countries that have questioned U.S. policy — such as France and Russia — but were not willing to give stronger support to Iraq.

It warned against using Iraq as a "card in the market of international bargaining."

Sanctions are reviewed by the Security Council every two months, with the next session in September. Britain and the United States have been the most adamant about refusing any easing of sanctions.

U.S. President Bill Clinton on Friday said he would keep sanctions in place, accusing Iraq of encouraging attacks on the U.N. and relief workers.

Israelis, Jordanians exchange souvenir

AQABA (R) — Relatives of Jordanian and Israeli men who died in wars fought between their countries since 1948 shook hands on Monday across a new border crossing. Families of fallen soldiers from each side met in the middle, shook hands and exchanged gifts. War veterans — senior officers from Israel and Jordan — then did the same. It was a symbolic gesture marking their desire to help forge a new peace as they stood on a line literally astride the border. Earlier, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin cut a white ribbon marking the official opening of the border for third-country nationals close to the Aqaba in Jordan and Eilat in Israel.



Threats signal Algerian factions' power struggle

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian and French authorities are not alert after Algerian Muslim fundamentalists threatened to step up a terror campaign.

But the warnings issued by the extremists also signal that stakes have been raised in a bitter power struggle between two rival militant factions waging the Algerian insurgency, according to observers here.

In Paris, the interior ministry said that police reinforcements were being drafted into the capital.

Police also spoke of a wave of identity and security checks a day after the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) accused France of having "declared war on... the Algerian Muslim people."

The AIS threatened in a statement to AFP to exact reprisals unless France released 17 suspected Algerian Islamic militants being detained in barracks in Folembay, northeast France.

The 17 have been held under interior ministry orders following the assassination Thursday by suspected fundamentalists of five French government officials on the outskirts of Algiers.

Meanwhile, in Algeria Saturday gunmen shot dead a senior university academic, Abdel Kader Rebhi, 42, in the town of Blida, 30 kilometres south of Algiers, state radio said.

Rebhi, the third top academic to be killed since the end of May, was gunned down hours after the Ahmed Islamic Group (GIA) in a statement ordered all Algerian schools and universities to close or face destruction by arson attacks or bombings.

Observers noted that the declarations appeared to be the latest shots in the war between the GIA and the AIS for overall control of the fundamentalist factions involved in the two-and-a-half-year insurgency against Algeria's secular military-backed authorities.

The AIS, which officials estimate comprises several thousand militants and has its strongholds in Algeria's mountainous Jijel and Zouara regions, is the armed wing of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

Aspirations to bring all armed Islamic Algerians under its umbrella, the GIA has claimed responsibility for the majority of the 56 killings of foreigners in Algeria documented over the last six months, including the five French officials killed Thursday.

It warned Algerian teachers and students Saturday to stay away from schools and universities in the new academic year or face death.

"The school or university which remains open will be the target of a fire or an explosion until all obey the GIA's order," the GIA said in its statement.

It is unclear whether that threat was carried out. But Algerian security sources said Sunday that the AIS had killed 10 GIA members last month, including Mouloud Hatat, the head of its eastern coastal division and a GIA founder.

The more longstanding, radical GIA is said to number around 2,500 men based in and around the major central Algerian towns such as Algiers, Blida, Medea and Tlemcen.

Aspirations to bring all armed Islamic Algerians under its umbrella, the GIA has claimed responsibility for the majority of the 56 killings of foreigners in Algeria documented over the last six months, including the five French officials killed Thursday.

It warned Algerian teachers and students Saturday to stay away from schools and universities in the new academic year or face death.

"The school or university which remains open will be the target of a fire or an explosion until all obey the GIA's order," the GIA said in its statement.

It is unclear whether that threat was carried out. But Algerian security sources said Sunday that the AIS had killed 10 GIA members last month, including Mouloud Hatat, the head of its eastern coastal division and a GIA founder.

The more longstanding, radical GIA is said to number around 2,500 men based in and around the major central Algerian towns such as Algiers, Blida, Medea and Tlemcen.

Hizbollah — Israel's unrelenting enemy

By Nadim Ladki
Reuters

BEIRUT — As the barbed wire comes down on Middle East frontiers and former enemies end decades of hostility, the militant Hizbollah movement has emerged as Israel's toughest and most unrelenting enemy.

It is a role the Iranian-inspired group cherishes most.

U.S. calls for its defeat and Israel threats to "crush its skull" have done nothing to shake the guerrillas' holy war against the Jewish state.

Hizbollah says peace with Israel is impossible and the state must be wiped from the map.

Rallying to their war cry of victory or martyrdom, Hizbollah guerrillas have killed 12 Israeli soldiers and wounded dozens in South Lebanon this year, the latest victims being an officer and a soldier killed in an ambush on Saturday.

They blasted northern Israel with rockets twice in eight hours over the weekend, making good their threats to make Israeli civilians pay if civilians in South Lebanon are hurt.

Israeli planes bombed an apartment building in South

Lebanon on Thursday, killing eight civilians. Israel later apologised and said the casualties were a mistake — hit by a stray bomb.

Israel, Argentina and the United States suspect Hizbollah of some role in the bombing of a Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires last month in which almost 100 people died. Israel also indicated it suspected the group might be linked to two bombs which hit Israeli and Jewish targets in London a week later.

The militant group threatened to hit at Israeli targets "anywhere in the world" in June after an Israeli raid.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, a driving force in the Arab-Israeli peace process, said after the bombing that Hizbollah must be defeated.

Israel says the group is "unreachable" in terms of political messages and that it will relentlessly attack Hizbollah until it is crushed.

"The enemy must understand that the stage of threats to crush skulls has long passed... this logic does not work with our people and our resistance anywhere," Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the group's leader, told a rally recently.

Rameh 'honour killing' fans controversy

By Gwen Ackerman
The Associated Press

RAMEH — When the 21-year-old soldier decided his older sister visiting from the United States was staid on the family honour, he killed her with 20 shots from his assault rifle.

Police said Hussam Basam declared he was driven to the murder by the 38-year-old's dyed blonde hair, miniskirts and general attitude of challenging Druze traditions.

Her father would not accept condolences, explaining that the death was akin to the amputation of an injured finger.

The tragedy in this pastoral Arab village focused attention throughout Israel and the occupied territories on honour killings, a centuries-old form of murder that had traditionally been swept into the family closet.

The extent of the problem is difficult to gauge. But the public response this time indicated things may be changing in Arab society.

Family honour must be redefined and a system set up "whereby such killings will be totally unacceptable and abhorred rather than

accepted," said Hanan Ashrawi, a former Palestinian spokeswoman now focusing on human rights.

In traditional Arab societies, family honour rises or falls according to the women's personal and social behaviour as defined by rigid moral codes.

The Druze are considered especially rigid and secretive about their social traditions. The Druze are one of the few Arab groups that serve in the Israeli army.

Family honour killings are tacitly accepted, and many are disguised as suicides or accidents. Few statistics are available; only about five such deaths are recorded yearly by the social and welfare ministry among Israeli Arabs.

In the occupied territories no data is available. However, 107 women were recorded killed as suspected informers and violators of the moral code during the six-year uprising against Israeli rule.

In Israeli courts, honour killings are considered murder and perpetrators face a life sentence. In the West Bank and Gaza Strip such crimes have a maximum sentence of two years, those

convicted are usually released early.

Neighbours in Rameh, 120 kilometres north of Jerusalem, provided an account of Ikhlas Basam's death, but it was not always possible to separate fact from rumour.

Ikhlas was back for a summer visit to her native village from the New York City area, where she had gone to live with a brother about 15 years ago, and where she used the name Ruth Simons. The family has visited her there.

She was outspoken about the need for modern institutions in the Galilee, the northern Arab heartland of Israel. She went on television in July to discuss her attempts to organise a Druze orphanage and an old people's home.

But rumours flowing through Rameh about her included an affair with an uncle in the village, an affair with a black man in the United States and a marriage out of the faith. She was also accused of running a brothel.

All villagers know for sure is that Hussam shot Ikhlas dead after an argument when she came home from the July 8 interview.

Some don't think it was an honour at all but an argument over money that got out of hand and was disguised to be more acceptable locally.

"I am very frustrated and in despair," said Rula Deeb, a member of the Arab-Israeli feminist group Woman to Woman and a Rameh resident.

"This is a very inflexible tradition. Once they believe she deserves to be killed, this is what is done," Ms. Deeb added. "She was killed because she is a woman, plain and simple."

In Rameh, a village of some 5,000 Muslim, Christian and Druze Arabs, few loudly condemned the murder.

When about 100 men and women demonstrated to protest the death a week later, Rameh men called them whores, beat them, and ripped their signs. Five demonstrators and five village men were arrested.

Still, organisers called the protest a success and noted that for the first time there was some public move against an honour killing. "This is progress, however slow," said Janan Abdul Haloul of Woman To Woman.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt holding 10,000 for security reasons

CAIRO (AFP) — Some 10,000 people are being held in Egyptian prisons for reasons of state security, Interior Minister Hassan Al Afifi said in an interview published Sunday. It was the first time an Egyptian government official had put forward any figures relating to the number of political detainees, most of whom are Muslim militants. He told the magazine "Rose Al Youssef" the 10,000 were "extremely dangerous detainees" and "activists" who once released would reoffend. Several non-government organisations have said in the past that between 10,000 to 20,000 people are being held. Militants launched a violent campaign in March 1992 to topple the secular government of President Hosni Mubarak. About 400 people including 142 police officers have died in the ensuing clashes. But the fundamentalists' activities have been sharply curtailed in recent months after Egyptian security services killed several militant leaders in shootouts, police said. General Afifi, quoted Sunday by the official agency MENA, also said 35 militants who had fled Egypt had been returned to Egyptian authorities without elaborating which countries had handed them over. Egypt recently signed an extradition agreement with Pakistan where many militants sought refuge after fighting in Afghanistan against the Soviet invasion.

Iranian jailed in Kuwait for killing sister

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti criminal court on Sunday sentenced an Iranian man to 10 years in prison for killing his married sister, whom he thought was having an affair, the official Kuwait News Agency said. Mohammad Burashid, 21, stabbed his sister, Husna, 37, more than 30 times in the chest and stomach in the belief she was seeing another man whenever her husband left their home to spend time with his second wife, the agency said late on Sunday. Burashid will be expelled from Kuwait at the end of his imprisonment, the agency, which gave no further details, said.

30 killed in clashes between Kurdish groups

ERBIL (AFP) — At least 30 civilians were killed in clashes between rival Kurdish groups in northern Iraq, officials on both sides said Sunday. Some 30 people were wounded in the fighting which broke out Saturday and continued late Sunday between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) led by Jalal Talabani and the Kurdistan Islamic League (KIL), the sources said. The clashes with heavy weapons regard in the Qalabat Diza area near the Iranian border. Abdul Ilah, a senior member of the pro-Iranian KIL led by Sheikh Abdul Aziz Osman, said the PUK controlled Qalabat Diza town but the KIL held the northern and eastern outskirts. Sami Rassi, a member of the PUK, said the KIL was being helped by Iranian forces and was trying to capture Qalabat Diza. "They shelled the town and destroyed three blocks of flats, killing all the people inside," he told AFP. Other Kurdish sources said the KIL was supported by members of Massoud Barzani's Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK). About 400 people died when the DPK and the PUK clashed in May. But they announced an agreement to stop fighting over power-sharing in Paris on July 23. Two people were killed in fighting a week ago in the Sulaymaniyeh region near the Iranian border.

Fugitive trader gets Israeli passport

ZURICH (R) — Marc Rich, the fugitive commodities trader now resident in Switzerland, has been granted Israeli citizenship, a Swiss newspaper reported on Sunday. Sonntags Zeitung said Mr. Rich's office in the town of Zug, where his worldwide trading firm is based, confirmed he had become a citizen of Israel. The paper said Israel, much like Switzerland, does not extradite citizens for tax evasion and most of the time Israel grants Jewish people citizenship without problem. No independent comment was available from either Mr. Rich's firm or the Israeli embassy in Bern. Belgian-born Rich moved to Switzerland in 1984 after leaving New York with U.S. government prosecutors hot on his trail. Shortly after taking up residence in Zug, Mr. Rich was charged in the United States with various counts of tax evasion, fraud and racketeering, and is still wanted by the U.S. Justice Department. Quoting Israeli newspapers, the Swiss newspaper said Mr. Rich had frequently visited Israel during the last few months. These visits were also seen as evidence that Mr. Rich was interested in the chemical group Israeli Chemicals (ICL), which is being privatised by the Israeli government. Earlier this week Mr. Rich's company said it was changing its name to Glencore International AG effective on Sept. 1 to reflect the recent restructuring and changes in ownership.

11 Kurds refused asylum in Israel

TYRE (AP) — Eleven Iraqi Kurds who crossed into Israeli-occupied territory in South Lebanon seeking asylum in the Jewish state have been sent back to government-held territory, security sources said Monday. The Kurds, two couples and their seven children aged one to 12, entered the Israeli-held "security zone" at Sbrobbeh Friday evening and were stopped by Israeli allied militiamen of the South Lebanon Army. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Kurds who came from Beirut sought political asylum in Israel. They were transferred by SLA and Israeli forces into a military barracks, where they spent two nights and were offered food and lodging. On Sunday night, the SLA took the Kurds to the nearby Beit Yahoun crossing point and ordered the group to head north on foot, the sources said. The Kurds were later loaded onto a Lebanese army truck and sent to a general security office in this southern port city.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Envoy Special
18:30 News in French
18:45 Grand Galop
19:00 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Hollywood Stunt Makers
22:00 News in English
22:30 The Commish
23:00 Rose Against The Odds

PRAYER TIMES

04:25 Fajr
05:57 Sunrise (Samir) Daba
12:41 Dhuhr
16:21 Asr
19:32 Maghrib
20:59 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swatish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 639851, Tel. 625543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Eghnig Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 634932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate to light. In Agila winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 18/33
Agila 24/39
Deserts 17/37
Jordan Valley 23/39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Agila 37. Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent. Agila 20 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Rafeh Zaitoun 888685
Dr. Bahjat Badr 889262
Dr. Jihad Zaidan 881148
Dr. Mahmood Hindi 898787
First pharmacy 649192
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nabouk pharmacy 623672
Al Satam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649195
Shmeisat pharmacy 637660
Nabouk pharmacy 623672
Nabouk pharmacy 847632
BRID:
Dr. Ali Shoghril 246140
Alquds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Rafeh Atallah 984424
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630241
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
University Hospital 605800
Police Complaints (directory assistance) 611716
Water and Sewerage 874657
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 621
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 771111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642481/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisat 664171/4
Shmeisat Hospital 689151
University Hospital 643845
Al-Mushtak Hospital 667277
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Italian, Al-Mulhira 771012
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 771112/5
Army, Marja 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 666100
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)980732
Al-Hamra Modern Hospital (09)990990
BRID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)225555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)227275
St. Al-Hafsa Hospital (02)247100
AJLA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)532005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:00 Dhaka, Dusseldorf (RJ)
06:30 Doha, Athens (RJ)
06:30 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
06:30 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
06:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
07:30 London (RJ)
07:30 Cairo (RJ)
07:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
08:00 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
08:00 Madrid (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)
05:35 Cairo (MS)
13:00 Muscat, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:00 Riyadh (SV)
17:00 Rome (AZ)
18:30 Paris, Beirut (AF)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman — 8:00 a.m. every Monday

Arr. Damascus — 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus — 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman — 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 600/400
Banana 680
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 120/70
Carrot 240/160
Cauliflower 160/80
Cucumbers (large) 140/80
Cucumbers (small) 280/200
Eggplant 180/160
Garlic 450/200
Ginger 350/200
Lemon 450/300
Marrow (large) 150/100
Marrow (small) 340/250
Mushrooms 150/100
Okra 1000/700
Orange 500/300
Onion (dry) 280/200
Pumpkin 700/500
Sweet Melon 150/100
Pepper (hot) 240/180
Pepper (sweet) 240/180
Potato 400/280
Pumpkin 800/500
Tomato 100/80
Spring beans 650/500
Watermelon 70/50

Princess Basma receives Lady Graydon at QAF

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday received Lady Graydon, wife of Sir Michael Graydon, chief of the British Air Staff, at the headquarters of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF).

Lady Graydon, who was accompanied by Michael Bell, the British air attaché

in Jordan, was briefed on the social and economic development activities implemented by QAF through its more than 40 community development centres. Lady Graydon was also briefed on the activities of the Arab Association for Women and Development as well as the Jordanian National Committee for Women, both of

which are hosted by QAF. Also present were representatives of the preparatory committee for the 1995 International Conference on Women, and the Jordanian Save the Children Fund, who talked about the activities of their groups.

Princess Basma discussed the preparations taking place for the women's conference scheduled to be held in Beijing in 1995, pointing out that Jordan was the first Arab country to submit its country paper for the conference.

Lady Graydon expressed her admiration of the Jordanian non-governmental sector in achieving development, especially in the area of women in development.

Japan, Jordan sign agreement to train 20 Palestinian engineers JEA centre to serve as training site

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Japanese government will pay for the cost of training 20 Palestinian electrical engineers at a centre of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), under an agreement signed on Monday.

The agreement, signed by JEA Deputy Director-General Waleed Jaouani and Japanese official Hiroaki Nakagawa, is the first of its kind.

It provides for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to finance the training of 20 Palestinian engineers from the West Bank and Gaza Strip with \$163,000. Mr. Nakagawa, head of a preliminary survey team of JICA, told the Jordan Times.

The JICA is an arm of the Japanese government. It offers a broad range of cooperation arrangements through assigning experts and volunteers in various fields, training Jordanians and helping the Kingdom conduct feasibility studies.

Over the years JICA involvement in assistance to Jordan has grown to an extent that the agency has

opened an office in the Kingdom.

The training courses, scheduled for Nov. 12 to March 11, aim at "providing the Palestinian participants with an opportunity to improve their knowledge and techniques in the field of electric power industry," a statement issued by the Japanese embassy said.

"The course will be held once a year, from 1994 to 1998, subject to annual consultations between Japan and Jordan," it added.

"This cooperation is part of the Japanese government assistance within the context of the (Middle East) peace process," said the statement.

Japan is extending \$200 million in aid to set up infrastructure in and develop the economy of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as part of an international programme to support the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) self-rule accord which went into effect in May.

"Considering the future power grid linkage between the West Bank and Jordan, this programme is expected

to encourage Jordanians and Palestinians to share the same knowledge and technique in the field of electric power."

No JEA official was available for immediate comment on details of the planned linkage between the Jordanian and West Bank power grids.

Palestinian sources have said that there were plans to link the power grids of the West Bank and Gaza Strip with that of Jordan. At present, Israel is supplying the occupied territories with power.

There is also a plan to link the Jordanian and Israeli power grids as called for in the Washington Declaration signed by the two countries last month. The overlapping of the Israeli-Jordanian and Palestinian-Jordanian plans was not immediately explained. But, in the broader context of a linkage among all national powergrids in the region, such overlappings would not matter anyway, experts noted.

The training courses for Palestinian electrical engineers will be conducted at a JEA centre southeast of Amman established in the late 1980s. The Japanese government provided \$5 million and expertise to establish the centre, which is used by the JEA to train its own personnel as well as others from other Arab countries.

With the latest financing plan, Japanese contribution to technical cooperation with Jordan so far amounts to \$70 million, the Japanese embassy said.

Ahmad Hiyasat, director of the JEA's International Services Department, said in comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the JEA and JICA were currently operating projects worth \$300,000 to train technicians from Arab countries and the Palestinian self-rule areas.

Eighteen Arab trainees are currently undergoing courses at the centre under financing offered by the Japanese government, he said.

According to Mr. Hiyasat, the JEA is planning to expand the activities of the centre and raise it to the level of a regional centre for training engineers and technicians in electricity.

Minister issues new import/export regulations

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf Monday issued a new import/export regulations due to take effect Aug. 25.

The regulations issued in compliance with the export and import law, exempts goods exported from Jordan from requiring export permits, with the exception of goods with an assessed value exceeding JD 1,000 exported to countries with which Jordan has commercial agreements and protocols.

These countries are Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Bahrain, Oman, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Egypt, Tunisia, Kuwait and Russia.

The regulations also exclude goods re-exported after the completion of customs clearance procedures and whose value is more than JD 1,000, taking into consideration that they are re-exported for repair or refill

reasons.

The new regulations stipulate that fruits and vegetables, which do not require export permits regardless of their value, should be exported in accordance with regulations provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO).

They also call for coordination between the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Commerce Department and the Customs Department to provide statistical information on the exported goods.

The new regulations will allow the export of goods of Jordanian origin without the need to refer to the Ministry of Industry and Trade to obtain permits and will make it possible to export goods with only the approval of the authorities concerned, as is the case with agricultural products.

They also prolonged the

period of export permits to six months instead of three for goods that require such permits.

The regulations also exclude the export of specified goods to certain institutions. These goods are leather products allowed to be exported by the Jordan Tanning Company; petroleum derivatives, mineral oil and gas cylinders, which can be exported only by the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC); black cement which can be exported only by the Jordan Cement Factories; and gun powder, explosive materials and raw phosphate which can be exported only by the Jordan Phosphate Company (JPMC).

The regulations specified commodities and goods that require a recommendation before being exported. They include basic food commodities such as wheat, sugar, rice, milk and dairy products,



Rima Khalaf

poultry, olive oil, biscuits and sweets. These goods require the approval of the Ministry of Supply.

The export of sheep, goats and cows require the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture, and precious metals and gold and gold currencies require the approval of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), according to the regulations.

Volunteer team helps handicapped in remote areas

AMMAN (Petra) — A team of volunteers is exerting strenuous efforts to serve the handicapped in all remote areas of the Kingdom, according to Sharifah Nofah Bint Nasser, who heads the team.

Sharifah Nofah said the group of volunteers include 12 experts in special education, psychiatric health,

archaeology, languages, nursing, community health and business administration and was set up at the University of Jordan to alleviate the suffering of the handicapped and to work on integrating them into the society.

She said the team had organised several working camps in remote areas.

The team visited centres

for the handicapped in these areas and carried out voluntary works at these sites such as painting, cleaning up gardens, equipping game halls, organising lectures to improve the efficiency of teachers and instructors and educating families of handicapped persons on services the handicapped require.

In addition, said Sharifah Nofah, the team organised

several entertainment camps in Ajloun, Dibbin and Aqaba, where about 100 handicapped youth, aged between eight and 20, were hosted.

She urged the general public and the private sector to extend assistance to the volunteers to help them to continue to offer their services to the handicapped.

She added that the volunteers are currently shouldering all the expenses of their work without having to hire staff.

Team spokesperson Ali Al Waked said the group will organise a march on Sept. 2 to mark the 42nd anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne (which falls this Thursday).

Mr. Waked said the march will start from the Orthodox Club in Abdoun in Amman and will head towards the Marriott Hotel in Shmeisani. He said the team will also organise, in cooperation with the Philadelphia Hotel, a benefit concert on Sept. 15.

He added that future activities will include organising an academic camp in Al Ramtha area in October, another camp in Tafleeb Governorate the same month and an entertainment camp in Aqaba in November in observance of the King's birthday.



The Ma'an Folklore group

Curtains down, curtains up, festivals run back to back

By Angham Tamimi

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As the final curtain drew on the 13th Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts many points of interest raised during the 19 days and nights of festivities deserve critique.

It cannot be denied that the festival attracted thousands of people of various nationalities and provided opportunities for the public to spend wonderful and enlightening times in getting to know more about other cultures through theatre.

The Gerasa Forum experiment also presented several creative activities for the first time.

But other negative aspects should be noted to help provide constructive criticism for the benefit of future planning.

Poetry recitals, for instance, were not worth attending. The Jerash Festival organisers should rely on a selection committee with more expertise.

Children's theatre productions were given a back seat by the organiser in terms of facilities and other attentions. This neglect comes at a time when children's theatre should be respected as much as adult theatre, because simply children represent our future.

Most of the groups invited to perform were not even second-class groups and many visitors repeatedly inquired about the absence of a ballet group.

Above all, Jerash Governor Abdul Ghani Abdullat was somehow sidelined by the festival organisers. He received no invitation to the festivities, and held a press conference to express his dissatisfaction and sorrow at what was going on during the festival.

"All facilities provided to the festival by Jerash governorate were free of charge. Jerash residents were treated badly, and their governor was not shown respect," said Mayor of Jerash Ali Qawqaz during the press conference.

The mayor had insisted on the governorate receiving a share of the festival's income.

On to Fubeis

On the heels of the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts the curtain was raised for the fifth Fubeis Festival Sunday morning.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan opened the festival by saying that the people of Jordan, equipped with planning, dedication, education and work, could absorb modernisation without sacrificing "our original values."

Sacred activities as the Jerash and Fubeis festivals, said Prince Hassan, prove that Jordan is capable of introducing the best even during the most trying times.

Sunday night's festivities included the performances of three Jordanian folklore groups: the Tafleeb, Azraq and Ma'an folklore groups.

The Tafleeb group sang six songs, most of which were dedicated to His Majesty King Hussein. Dressed in traditional Jordanian costumes and accompanied by tablas and qirbas, the all male group performed one of its famous sword dances.

Founded in 1992, the Tafleeb group seeks to revive Jordanian cultural traditions, as well as handicrafts such as embroidery and sewing of folkloric dresses.

The Azraq group wearing non other than blue costumes to accompany the group's name, sang and danced before an audience of nearly 2,000.

Founded in 1992, the 36-

member group took the role of introducing Jordanian folklore to the Fubeis Festival audience.

Participating in all the national and several international festivals, the Ma'an group, accompanied by the oud, shabbaba, and qirba. Arab musical instruments, entertained the young and old with several shows of old folkloric tradition weaving their swords and rifles with precision.

The group was founded in 1981 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. "Ten years ago, it comprised 14 members only, but now it includes 28," Abbas Hussein, founder and director of the group told the Jordan Times.

The Ma'an group performed at the Qirba Festival (Tunis) in 1983, Ismailia Festival (Egypt) in 1989, Bursa Festival (Syria) in 1992, and Hadhrah Festival (Baghdad) in 1993. They also were invited to perform in Madrid to celebrate King Hussein's birthday last year at Jordan's embassy ceremonies there.

The Fubeis Festival will host several Arab artists during its 10-day activities. Although smaller than the Jerash Festival in setting and programme, the Fubeis Festival concentrates on the traditional aspects of our Arab World.

National Document of Science and Technology has 'socio-economic, environmental nature'

By Rima Cortbawi

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Embodied in the daily Jordanian Science Week activities are discussions on the National Document of Science and Technology. "This document will warrant the contribution of both private and public sectors of the country," said Talal Akasheh, director of the development sector at the General Secretariat of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST).

In addition to pinpointing the effectiveness of the Jordanian Armed Forces in security and development of the country, science week serves two other objectives.

First, the interaction with Arab Scientists and Technologists Abroad (ASTA) will aid in increasing directed knowledge in various fields.

Second is the discussion

of the National Document on Science and Technology, the importance of which, Dr. Akasheh said, "cannot be overlooked."

This document is the fruit of long-spent efforts of the General Secretariat of the HCST, but "a large group of our scientific and technological society also contributed to the features and main foundations of this document, which has been presented to various institutions for modification before the HCST approve it for publication," Dr. Akasheh added.

Consisting of two main parts, the document's strategies for development have a "socio-economic and an environmental nature," according to Dr. Akasheh.

The first part comprehends a general motive background, the main framework of the policies and strategies, the main

supportive executive factors and the requirements for execution.

The framework portrays all target sectors, whether social — including education, training, culture, health, housing and social development — productive involving industry, agriculture, trade, tourism and archaeology — infrastructural — combining energy, mineral resources, water and irrigation, construction, communications and transportation — or comprehensive such as administration and environment.

Main supportive executive factors will naturally involve the continuous backing of the Armed Forces, according to Dr. Akasheh.

The execution, however, will require governmental assistance especially in publishing the document covering all institutions. It

also involves the private sector in both discussions and financial support, which will initially be granted by the government for projects and plans that claim national priority.

"The document could eventually be translated into a series of constructive plans and projects — some short, some long-term — but all aiming towards development," said Dr. Akasheh.

These strategic plans are all outlined in the second part of the document which tackles human resources, information, research and development and technologies and presents the expected short and long-term projects and accomplishments from all sectors of the Kingdom.

"Surely, evaluation on projects' performance will be continuously made so that plans do not get fulfilled beyond the time frame

specified nor demand excessive financial support," said Dr. Akasheh.

As well as two sessions dedicated to discussions of the National Document on Science and Technology, seven working papers were presented on the fifth day of science week, Monday.

Three of the papers involved medicine dealing with brain injuries, artificial kidney implants in Jordan and the injuries caused by burning.

The other four handled communication systems including cellular telephone service systems the use of infra-red radiation for more reliable close communication, the development of fibre optic communication systems in the Royal Jordanian Air Force and technologies concerned with improved light production for communication systems using optical fibres.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Exhibition on the city of Salt.
- ★ Caricature drawings exhibition by Inad Hajjaj, Kifah Mahmoud, and Khalid Gharaibeh.
- ★ Exhibition of handicrafts.
- ★ Comprehensive agricultural exhibition (held for the first time with the participation of the private and public sectors).
- ★ Plays
- ★ Play in Arabic entitled "The Man Who Ate The Goose" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 20:00.

- ★ Melodrama for children in Arabic entitled "The Children's Garden" at Haya Cultural Centre at 17:00.
- ★ Play entitled "Anthology of Martyrdom and Exile" at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 20:30 (Tel. 695291).
- ★ EXHIBITIONS
- ★ Exhibition of ceramic works by Samar Tarazi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of water paints by Sudanese artist Abdul Qadir Al Bakhit at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687598).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Environmental Technologies: A Travelling Information Centre" at the American Center.

Rose calls for Sarajevo DMZ

SARAJEVO (R) — The commander of U.N. troops in Bosnia called Monday for a demilitarised zone around Sarajevo, in a security measure after NATO warplanes struck at defiant Serbs last Friday.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose was trying to set up a meeting with the commander of the Bosnian Serb forces, General Ratko Mladic, to discuss the issue, a U.N. spokeswoman said.

The plan calls for a withdrawal of all armed and uniformed soldiers and would allow both Serb and Muslim forces to take their weapons out of the zone for use elsewhere.

Weapons collection points, set up when a 20 kilometre heavy weapons exclusion zone was established around Sarajevo last February, would be scrapped.

U.N. spokeswoman Claire Grimes said of the DMZ plan: "General Rose feels such a measure would enhance the security of Sarajevo."

There had however been no response from Gen. Mladic, whose forces in Sarajevo have been blamed for an increasing number of sniping incidents in the city in recent days.

U.N. sources said U.N. sharpshooters had shot and killed one or two Serb snipers in the past two days and this

had stopped sniping in the past 24 hours.

Tension rose in the city after NATO launched an air strike against the Serbs last Friday to punish them for seizing back some of their heavy weapons from under U.N. guard in Sarajevo.

The Bosnian Serbs are becoming increasingly isolated following the decision by Serbian-led Yugoslavia to cut relations in an attempt to force the Bosnian Serbs to sign the latest international peace plan.

Gen. Rose said he hoped the Bosnian Serb side would see sense and start talking peace. Despite bellicose language from some Bosnian Serb leaders the rift with Belgrade was having an effect on the public mood.

"The impression I have is that most people want peace. I think the voice of sanity in the end will prevail," Gen. Rose said in an interview from Bosnia with BBC Radio.

Since Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic closed Serbia's border with the Bosnian Serbs, hundreds of trucks have been turned back.

Radovan Karadzic, chief of the Bosnian Serbs, has ordered local authorities to mobilise a compulsory workforce to compensate for the blockade.

He acknowledged that his

forces must somehow do without Belgrade's lifeline of arms, fuel and other supplies.

Mr. Karadzic was able to draw comfort from a visit to his "capital," Pale, by the head of the Serbian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Pavle, who had travelled from Belgrade.

"We are not separated from our church. The church is one," Mr. Karadzic said. But he added: "This is simply a very delicate and difficult moment in our relations with Yugoslavia. We understand they cannot follow us any longer. We will have to go our own way and they should understand it."

Momcilo Krajisnik, the Bosnian Serbs' self-declared parliament, said the Serbs could not accept the peace plan unless it was adjusted to give them more land and guarantees of sovereignty.

The peace plan drawn up by a "contact group" comprising the United States, Britain, Germany, France and Russia, divides Bosnia roughly in half between the Serbs, who now hold about 70 per cent of the land, and a Muslim-Croat alliance.

At its most recent meeting last Wednesday, the Bosnian Serb parliament called a referendum to ratify its rejection of the peace plan.

The referendum would go ahead as planned on Aug. 27

and 28, when "a positive response to the proposed peace plan cannot be expected," Mr. Krajisnik told the Bosnian Serb News Agency.

The Muslim-led Bosnian army has used the breathing space provided by the air strike and the closing of the border by Belgrade as an opportunity to press ahead with offensives against the Serbs in central Bosnia.

U.N. military spokesman Major Roh Amink said Bosnian government forces had taken the Serb-held hill town of Brjuni, south of Vares.

He spoke of a "remarkable increase" in shelling along Muslim-Serb fronts in the Kladanj-Dastanko corridor, a key supply route through central Bosnia.

Bosnian troops had seized about 12 square miles (32 sq km) of territory in their southwards thrust from Vares towards the crucial road, between Sarajevo and Tuzla.

Maj. Amink reported considerable small arms machine gun fire southeast of Brjuni, indicating that Muslim units were pressing ahead with their offensive towards the road.

Bosnian troops, on a roll, were still refusing to let the U.N. position peacekeepers between them and the Serbs along the shifting southern Vares front.



Colombian President Ernesto Samper gives the country's new president in the Colombian capital, Bogota (AFP photo)

New Colombia leader to step up drug war

BOGOTA (R) — Ernesto Samper was sworn in Sunday as president of Colombia promising to step up the war against drug traffickers, put a human face on free market reforms and seek peace in one of the world's most violent countries.

Mr. Samper, a 44-year-old economist, took the oath of office in a televised ceremony in front of Bogota's neoclassical Congress building before an audience of seven Latin American presidents, foreign dignitaries and 4,000 invited guests.

Security was tight with sharpshooters guarding rooftops, tanks patrolling streets, soldiers guarding the ceremony and a posse of bodyguards watching the new president.

In his inauguration speech, Mr. Samper put special priority on the drug war in the world's top cocaine-exporting nation.

"We are combating and we will continue to combat drug trafficking out of conviction, because of the grave harm it has caused to Colombian

society," he said.

Mr. Samper said he would toughen rules on money laundering and stiffen penalties for drug kingpins who surrender.

The new president is under heavy pressure from the United States to produce early results in the war against the powerful cocaine cartels and lift a cloud of suspicion hanging over his government after allegations that drug kingpins helped finance his narrow victory over a conservative rival June 19.

Following revelations in a series of cassette tapes, Mr. Samper admitted that the Cali drug cartel, which controls most of the world's cocaine trade, offered his campaign over \$3 million.

But he insisted the donation was not accepted and says his only contact with traffickers was when they tried to kill him in an attack in March 1989.

Guests at the inauguration ceremony included some of the doctors and nurses who saved his life after gunmen pumped 11 bullets into him at

Bogota Airport. Four of the bullets are still lodged in his body.

Within Colombia, however, the drug war is not a top priority. Voters who supported Mr. Samper and his campaign slogan "the time of the people has come" are more interested in his promises of 1.5 million new jobs, higher social spending, subsidies for agriculture and industry and a negotiated peace with the country's 10,000 Marxist guerrillas.

Mr. Samper said in his speech he would work for a negotiated peace with the guerrillas but warned the rebels they would first have to show a real will for peace. "I will only sit down at the negotiating table when I am sure that there exist real conditions for a permanent and lasting peace," he said.

Military analysts agree that the guerrillas have no real chance of seizing power but retain a capacity for disruption which hurts the economy and deters foreign investment.

Michael Jackson begins filming video clip

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)

Three years after the last Soviet soldier left Hungary, Michael Jackson led "Red Army" troops past cheering crowds as filming began Sunday for a video to promote his new album *HIStory*. "The film short depicts Jackson as freeing an unnamed Communist country, upon which a grateful populace erects an enormous statue of him," said Gabriella Marky of Transatlantic Media Associates, the U.S.-Hungarian company producing the video. Filming is taking place in front of the former royal castle on Buda Hill, first built in the 13th century. The castle courtyard was decorated with enormous red flags and banners showing Jackson with bandoliers of bullets criss-crossing his chest. Filming began with an explosion as shredded paper was shot high into the air. Jackson, wearing sunglasses and long gloves, waved to crowds who lined his path. They held signs reading: "I want Michael!" and "Michael, who love you." He was followed by about 200 extras dressed in uniforms borrowed from the Hungarian army with the red star, which is now banned, reattached to the film. The soldiers included women and some British extras who were flown in for the filming. During long breaks, Jackson disappeared into a trailer to escape the summer heat that has baked Budapest. A crew member shielded him with a large pink umbrella outdoors. Jackson's new wife, Lisa Marie Presley, wearing a black dress, was on hand for the filming. The couple confirmed last week that they were married 11 weeks earlier. Police kept onlookers several hundred metres away.

Sen. Kennedy announces birth of 1st grandchild

WASHINGTON (R)

Senator Edward Kennedy announced Sunday night the birth of his first grandchild, a girl weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces. The newest member of the political dynasty, Kiley Elizabeth Kennedy, was born to Katherine Kennedy and her husband Edward Kennedy Jr., one of the senator's three children by his first wife, Joan. The baby was born at 8:44 p.m. EDT (0044 GMT) at the Yale-New Haven Hospital. Sen. Kennedy and his wife, Vicki, were in New Haven for the birth and "are pleased to report that baby, mother, father and grandparents are doing fine," a statement from the senator's office said. "I felt instant love when I saw this beautiful baby girl. I'm going to relish being a grandfather," added Sen. Kennedy, the senior Democrat from Massachusetts who is seeking reelection to a sixth term.

Radio stations must obey 40% French rule

PARIS (AFP)

All French music radio stations must obey a law to play at least 40 per cent French songs at peak listening times, France's top TV and radio authority, the Superior Audiovisual Council (SAC), said. The 40 per cent law was adopted in December but several stations, said the SAC, are currently not adhering to it. The council said the ruling will be strictly enforced after Jan. 1, 1995. The law was passed in order to protect French music in the face of mainly British and American competition.

Wooden toothpicks banned in restaurants

SEOUL (AP)

The use of wooden toothpicks will be banned at all eateries across the nation in an effort to reduce waste, government officials said Monday. The new regulation will also limit the use of vinyl wrap on all items excluding meat, fish and vegetables, and allow only limited use of styrofoam, said the officials at the Ministry of Environment. The ban, that requires a revision of concerned laws, is expected to receive parliamentary approval without trouble, officials said. Wooden chopsticks, disposable cups, toothbrushes, and razors are already banned, with repeat offenders facing up to \$3,700 in fines. Banning toothpicks was part of an effort to increase the use of food leftovers as animal feed.

S.African guerrilla arms handover begins slowly

JOHANNESBURG (R)

More than three months after Nelson Mandela's ANC swept to power in South Africa's first all-race election, its guerrilla wing has surrendered only a tiny fraction of the arms it has in secret caches.

Lieutenant-Colonel Margaret Neethling, spokeswoman for the now-unified South African Armed Forces, said Monday 200 AK-47 assault rifles, Makarov pistols and explosives had been handed in since last week.

The weapons, the first to be given up, were handed over at the Johannesburg house of a former officer in the guerrilla wing Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation or MK), who is now a major in the unified force, which groups regular South African troops, ex-guerrillas and men from the armies of apartheid-era black homelands that have now disappeared.

In terms of the new constitution, all guerrilla weapons became the property of the new defence force immediately after the April elections won by Mr. Mandela's ANC (African National Congress).

At the same time the regular armed forces had to disclose their weapon stocks to the ANC.

Sources in the ANC said MK officers had been reluctant to hand over weapons until former guerrillas were

given senior appointments in the traditionally white-officer armed forces.

"Some feared the old order would strike against them if they handed over their weapons, but now MK people are being given senior positions, this fear has been allayed," said a senior ANC official, who did not wish to be identified.

He said he expected the flow of weapons from secret stores to increase dramatically in the next few weeks.

The army says surrendered weapons will be examined, with light arms, such as AK-47s, likely to be destroyed. Heavier equipment, including 82 mm and 105 mm mortars, may be retained.

Tsepe Motumi, a former MK political commissar who was trained in Angola and Zambia, said thousands of weapons were stored in caches in and outside South Africa.

He said most of the arms stored in the country, many buried and wrapped in greased paper, were AK-47s, RPG-7 rocket launchers and projectiles, handguns and explosives, including mines.

"Weapons held outside the country include bigger arms such as 82 mm and 105 mm mortars and anti-aircraft guns. They are mainly held in Angola and Uganda," said Mr. Motumi, now working as a researcher with the Johannesburg-based Institute for Defence Policy.

China recognises Taiwan jurisdiction after talks

TAIPEI (AFP)

China and Taiwan have eased their political deadlock after high level talks here, with a joint statement Monday outlining eight points of consensus including Beijing recognising Taiwanese jurisdiction for the first time.

Tang Shubei, vice chairman of China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARAATS), and his Taiwanese counterpart Chiao Jen-Ho of the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF), signed the joint new statement before Mr. Tang returned home in heavy rain and strong winds as Typhoon Doug hit the island.

The joint statement outlines eight areas of consensus, including the repatriation of hijackers and stowaways, settlement of fishing disputes and expansion of various exchange programmes. It was signed in the VIP lounge at Taiwan's international airport.

The agreement was prepared late Sunday after the two sides held talks for more than nine hours.

The Chinese side made major concessions to further the talks, whereas the previous four rounds of discussions had been bogged down over the sensitive sovereignty and jurisdiction issues.

The Chinese side Sunday committed to acknowledge Taiwan's jurisdiction over the handling of hijackers and fishing disputes.

Earlier, Beijing refused to acknowledge jurisdiction rights for Taiwan, which it views as a renegade regional government.

Taiwan and China separated after the Nationalists were defeated in a civil war by the Chinese Communists and fled to the island in 1949.

"Frankly speaking, we have made more concessions than the Taiwanese side have, since I was given more authority in the talks than Mr. Chiao was," Mr. Tang told reporters before he left.

Mr. Tang declined to say whether the concessions constituted a change in China's policy towards Taiwan.

Analysts here said relations between the two sides were set to enter a new era as Beijing made a tentative step towards acknowledging Taipei's jurisdiction rights.

They considered negotiations this time as a milestone in the easing of the political deadlock between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits.

Taiwan has sought Beijing's acknowledgement of it as a political entity to enhance its international relations, an attempt repeatedly rejected by China, which has warned other countries against forging ties with Taiwan.

Wu An-Chia, the mainland affairs convener of the Institute of International Relations, said the Chinese side decided it was unwise to continue to deny the Taiwan's jurisdiction rights.

Mr. Merson said "implementing basic prevention programmes" in Asia would cost up to \$1.5 billion representing less than .03 per cent of Asian economic output, or equal to what Japanese workers produce in less than one hour.

India rules out early talks with Pakistan

NEW DELHI (AFP)

India Monday ruled out an early resumption of its stalled peace talks with Pakistan, as the U.S. envoy here urged the South Asian rivals to resolve tensions through dialogue.

Minister of State for External Affairs Ragnuram Lal Bhatia said Islamabad was trying to link future talks to their dispute over Kashmir and had set preconditions not acceptable to India.

Mr. Bhatia, replying to parliamentary questions, said that one of the preconditions related to the number of troops India should deploy in the Himalayan state, where Muslim militants are fighting for an end to Indian rule.

He said Islamabad also wanted the talks to include the possibility of holding a

plebiscite in Kashmir to determine whether its inhabitants wanted to stay with India or join Pakistan, a proposal India rejects.

Mr. Bhatia said "no further action is contemplated at the moment" to resume the dialogue.

His statement coincided with the first public appearance here of new U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner.

"As a friend of both India and Pakistan, we will continue to encourage the search for peaceful long-term solutions to the problems which bedevil the region," Mr. Wisner said.

Mr. Wisner, who took up his posting in July, urged the two countries to settle the Kashmir dispute through talks.

Khmer Rouge seek \$1m

PHNOM PENH (R)

Camodia's outlawed Khmer Rouge rebels have demanded \$1 million from Australia, France and the United States as compensation for damage by Cambodian government forces on a guerrilla base where three Western hostages are being held.

The demand was enclosed in a hand-written letter dated Aug. 7 and given to an employee of Indochine Television Productions who gained entry to the rebel commune Sunday.

Referring to the Khmer Rouge base at Vine Mountain (Phnom Vor), about 150 kilometres south of Phnom Penh, the letter signed by "Commander Brin", said government forces had engaged in a series of recent air and ground assaults against

the base killing and wounding a number of people.

Some of these attacks, it said had occurred during recent round table discussions in Pyongyang and Phnom Penh between the various parties in the Cambodian conflict.

"This resulted from the alliance between the U.S., France and Australia and they have to take full responsibility and pay a fine of \$1 million," the letter said.

Meanwhile negotiations have continued to free the three men taken hostage during a Khmer Rouge train ambush on July 26 — Mark Slater, 28, from Corby in Northamptonshire, Britain; Jean-Michel Braguet, 28, from Nice, France and David Wilson, 29, from Melbourne, Australia.

Asian leaders urged to take quick action to stop AIDS

YOKOHAMA, Japan

(Agencies) — International AIDS researchers told Asian leaders Monday they could save their booming economies tens of billions of dollars by taking immediate action to prevent the spread of the deadly disease.

"I appeal to all Asian leaders to face reality and make AIDS prevention a national priority," Michael Merson, head of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Programme on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), said at the opening session.

"Over 6,000 people are becoming infected with HIV every day, more and more of them in Asia," Mr. Merson said. "The overriding need is to act now, without delay, to prevent or blunt the rise in infections."

The six-day conference, the first international AIDS conference in the region, started Sunday, focusing particularly on Asia and women.

Researchers called on Asian countries to establish large funds to combat the killer disease.

Mr. Merson said "implementing basic prevention programmes" in Asia would cost up to \$1.5 billion representing less than .03 per cent of Asian economic output, or equal to what Japanese workers produce in less than one hour.

"Please, let us not use cost as an excuse," Mr. Merson said. "By the year 2000, a Thai estimate puts the loss to Thailand's economy alone at nearly \$11 billion," he said.

Analysts at McGraw Hill estimate that AIDS will cost Asian economies between \$38 billion and \$52 billion, Mr. Merson said.

He warned: "Do whatever you need to do to overcome denial, and fight discrimination. Provide your most vulnerable citizens the information and means — including condoms — to protect themselves."

The number of AIDS cases increased eightfold in the region last year to an estimated 29,000 and Asia's global share of AIDS cases rose to five per cent from one per cent a year ago, according to WHO.

He said: "An investment of this kind would avoid an estimated five million infections by the year 2000 alone. And the preventive effect would be even stronger as Asia moves into the twenty-first century."

At the session, Ngeow Yung-Pong of the University

of Malaysia reported that poverty, lack of information and abuse of drugs were the major elements in mounting AIDS cases in the region.

"It is evident that in most parts of Asia, HIV has become an important sexually transmitted disease from high-risk groups to the general population," Dr. Ngeow said.

She said: "The infection is still mainly transfusion-related in Japan, predominantly a male homosexual problem in Australia and New Zealand and largely restricted to injecting drug users in southwest China, Malaysia and Vietnam."

Dr. Ngeow noted the need to work "toward longer-term objectives such as the eradication of socioeconomic, cultural and political factors which promote prostitution and drug dependency."

More than 1.5 million people have been infected with Human Immune-deficiency Virus (HIV) in India, 600,000 to 800,000 in Thailand, 150,000 in Burma, and at least 50,000 each in Indonesia and the Philippines, according to WHO.

Zena Stein, a researcher at New York State Psychiatric Institute, reported on

methods women could use to protect themselves against contracting HIV by sexual contact.

"Protection is the only defence we have, women and men must know about what this means, and choose among their options," Dr. Stein said.

Women must communicate better with men about sex and take a more active role in protecting themselves against AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD), experts said Monday.

"We must induce, encourage communication of sexual matters between men and women," Dr. Stein told the international conference.

"There are still too many ingrained taboos over this in all communities," Dr. Stein said.

Dr. Stein and other experts said women were far more vulnerable than men to the sufferings caused by STD, especially in the developing world.

"It is also striking how much greater the STD burden is on women than on men," said Peter Piot, director of AIDS research at the World Health Organisation (WHO).

"First, the complications... of STD affect women far

more than men, and, secondly, women have less access to STD care," he said.

He said the persistently high level of STD in many developing countries reflected failing health policies and the lack of effective STD control programmes, which leave millions of infected people, particularly women, untreated and at risk of complications.

"Basically STD have rarely been approached as a public health problem, but rather as a problem for a small group of blame-worthy individuals," Mr. Piot said.

The view held by men in many cultures that they have the right to dominate sexual relationships, including the privilege of using or not using a condom, was one reason men do not use condoms more often to protect their partners, Dr. Stein said.

"(The) next possibility is for the women explicitly to take responsibility and for the man to accept to transfer the role," she said.

She said it was with this in mind that many women had warmly greeted news of the development of a women's condom, now available in Europe and the United States.

World News

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1994 5

Russia suspends air links with Chechnya

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia has suspended air links with its rebel Chechnya region, an Aeroflot official told AFP Monday, as Moscow increased pressure on the breakaway republic's President Dzhokhar Dudayev to step down from power.

"From today we are not allowed to sell tickets to Grozny," the Chechen capital, the official said, without giving details about when and why the ban took effect.

On Friday Russian aviation leaders warned that Moscow would impose an "air blockade" from Monday, according to Chechnya's Information Minister Movladi Udugov.

Russia already maintains an economic blockade against Chechnya, an oil-rich Muslim republic in the Russian Caucasus which unilaterally declared independence in 1991.

Flights were suspended for several months at that time, resuming later in an irregular fashion.

On Monday, General Dudayev said he was ready to stand down if Russia and the international community recognised the republic's right to independence.

He spoke after a leading opposition group announced that it had formed a government with Moscow's backing, a week after claiming to have ousted Mr. Dudayev.

Mr. Dudayev told ITAR-TASS in an interview that if such a condition were met, he would leave the seat of power and "swear on the Koran not to be involved in politics again."

"If the Chechen problem is down to my personality, I am ready to hand in my resignation at any moment," he said.

It was the first time Mr. Dudayev had publicly hinted that he would be prepared to relinquish power, under certain conditions, while he is under massive pressure from Moscow to quit.

Earlier Monday a leading opposition group announced that it had formed a government, a week after claiming to have ousted Mr. Dudayev.

The group, which calls itself the Interim Council of Chechnya and claims to have Moscow's backing, said its influence "extends throughout Chechnya with the exception of the capital, Grozny," the Interfax News Agency reported.

The Interim Council, led by Umar Avturkhanov, was reported to be based in the region of Nadterechny, northwest of Grozny.

Mr. Avturkhanov announced last Tuesday that he had overthrown Mr. Dudayev, but the Chechen leader denied the claim and ordered the opposition leader's arrest.

The incident caused Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to vow to reassert control over the rebel republic.

Mr. Avturkhanov's forces also announced that Russian Khasulov, a Chechen who was speaker of the Russian parliament until its dissolution by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in September last year, was on his way to Chechnya from Moscow Monday.

But the council did not indicate if Mr. Khasulov would join with the Nadterechny opposition group.

In an interview with the Communist newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya Saturday, Mr. Khasulov said he "welcomed the Russian government's recognition of the interim council."

Mr. Avturkhanov's troops appear to be in control of the Nadterechny region.

On Saturday, three of Mr. Dudayev's security agents were killed in the Nadterechny region, according to security services.

For its part, the council said that "four of President Dudayev's advisors" were killed.

Over 500,000 Cubans rally against disturbance

HAVANA (R) — Hundreds of thousands of Cubans gathered at Havana's Revolution Square Sunday to show support for the government, two days after street clashes in the capital that injured 35 people.

The crowd, estimated by officials at 600,000, jammed the vast square at a meeting called to pay tribute to a policeman killed in a ferry boat hijacking but also to issue a firm rebuttal against the unrest.

The Sunday newspaper Juventud Rebelde said 35 people, including 10 policemen, were injured in the clashes along a section of Havana's Malecon sea-front drive. It also said an undisclosed number of people had been arrested.

Mr. Rosales Del Toro centred his address on the United States, reiterating President Fidel Castro's charge Friday that Washington wanted to cause disorder and provoke a "bloodbath" in Cuba.

He also slammed the United States for its "malevolent" immigration policy on Cubans.

The deputy minister reiterated a threat by Mr. Castro Friday to flood the United States with Cuban emigrants if Washington did not alter what Havana views as an immigration policy that encourages illegal exits from the island. He said Cuba did not oppose negotiations for a just solution to the problem.

Cuba says the current policy stimulates illegal exits because Washington limits the visas it grants but, under the Cuban Adjustment Act, generally allows Cubans who have left the island illegally to stay in the United States.

Mr. Castro was absent for Sunday's rally, visiting Colombia for the swearing-in of new President Ernesto Samper. But a string of senior government figures including first deputy President Raul Castro, Mr. Castro's younger brother, stood on the podium along with an emotional group of relatives of the dead policeman.



Police in the Plaza of the Revolution in Havana gather to pay homage to fellow policeman Gabriel Lamoth Caballero, 19, who was killed during the protests along the waterfront. The waterfront area of Havana was reportedly calm after it was opened to normal traffic (AFP photo)

A recent spate of ferry boat hijackings, highlighting the drama of a steady trickle of Cubans who leave the Communist-ruled island illegally by sea to go to United States, were the trigger for Friday's clashes.

Mr. Castro also admitted in remarks to reporters in Bogota Saturday that there was some discontent among the population amid Cuba's current severe economic crisis.

Thursday's hijacking, which ended with authorities bringing the hijackers and passengers back to Havana after the vessel ran out of fuel, was the third such incident in nine days.

Divers are still searching Havana Bay for the body of a second policeman killed in the hijacking.

The rally Sunday, in the tradition of Cuba's huge gatherings for events such as key anniversaries, was the

culmination of a blaze of pro-revolutionary activity organised since the clashes.

Officials said some 22,000 people queued Sunday to file past Lamoth's coffin, laid out in the Interior Ministry facing the square before the evening rally.

The crowds, in many cases organised by groups such as the Union of Young Communists, walked, cycled and were brought in droves of buses from Havana and the surrounding countryside.

Small demonstrations against the disturbances have been held in the city since Friday evening and state media has issued a flood of condemnation of the protesters and support for Mr. Castro and the revolution.

Juventud Rebelde, the youth Communist weekly, gave a detailed version of how the unrest evolved. It said that a gathering of some 300 to 400 people grouped in the port area of Havana in

the early morning of Friday, and were dispersed by authorities.

Following that incident, some 21 people tried to commandeer a tugboat, despite the fact the vessel did not even have a motor. They were detained, the newspaper said.

During the morning people congregated again at the end of the Malecon by the port, numbering about 700 by noon. The unrest erupted in the early afternoon, centred in the area around the Hotel Deauville on the sea-front, the newspaper added.

It did not give details of the injuries of the protesters, although it published accounts of some of the injuries suffered by police and other law enforcement members.

Police fired during the disturbances, but apparently in the air and it was not clear if live bullets were used.

200 held for Rwanda massacres — premier

KIGALI (Agencies) — Some 200 people suspected of having taken part in genocide in Rwanda are being held by the new authorities, Premier Faustin Twagiramungu said Monday.

While backing the formation of an international tribunal to try the war criminals, he deplored the slow pace of the international community's investigation into the ethnic bloodletting that left up to one million Rwandans dead, mostly minority Tutsis, in three months.

The killings mainly by former government troops and extremist militia of the Hutu majority were triggered by the death of President Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu, in a suspect April 6 plane crash.

"How long will we have to keep these suspects in jail? We cannot wait too long," Mr. Twagiramungu told a press conference. "We will do our utmost to ensure them (the suspects) fair trials."

He noted that an earlier figure of people targeted for war crimes trials referred only to "first suspects who are administrative officials."

"Some (of those) are innocent, some have been killed," he added.

The new Rwandan government set up by the mainly Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) early last month "backs efforts of the international community aimed at setting up an independent international tribunal to try the perpetrators of massacres of civilian populations, while recognising the competence

International community is losing credibility as Haiti crisis wears on

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — Haiti's people are losing faith in the international community because its hurry-up-and-wait policies have failed to dislodge military leaders, backers of the ousted president said.

Their comments came as a senior U.S. official tried to assure Haitians that the drive to push out leaders of the 1991 coup is not stalling.

"It's just been promises, promises for three years," the Rev. Adonai Jean Juste told the Associated Press, minutes after he urged 800 Roman Catholic parishioners not to give up hope.

"Everything's on hold, people are frustrated," echoed the Rev. Rene Giroux, a Canadian priest at a slum parish.

White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said Sunday Haiti's military leaders should step aside and allow the return of democratic rule; warning the Haitians not to test Washington on a possible invasion.

Haitian military leader General Raoul Cedras said in a broadcast interview Saturday that he believed a U.S.-led invasion is inevitable and his supporters are getting ready.

"I'd recommend he not test us on that issue," Mr. Panetta said on NBC's Meet The Press programme.

"We have made very clear with the U.N. resolution, that we have a consolidated position with our allies, with the United Nations, in sending a very clear message to them that the military dictatorship has to step down... If ultimately we have to use force, we have that option on the table."

A week ago, the U.N. Security Council authorised the United States to lead an invasion to restore to power ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide but did not set a deadline.

The United States has "decided to invade and we are awaiting this moment. We are getting ready. Our soldiers have sworn to defend our country," Gen. Cedras told Cable News Network.

On the same programme, William Gray, the Clinton administration's special adviser on Haiti, said an invasion was inevitable unless the military leaders abandoned power. At present, he said, the United States and allies were tightening U.N.-imposed economic sanctions against Haiti.

U.S. ambassador William Swing made many of the same points in an AP interview, stressing that in recent weeks Washington has cut commercial air links with Haiti, stopped most financial transactions and pushed

Kidnapped priest freed in Philippines

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (R) — Muslim extremists freed unharmed a Roman Catholic priest held hostage for two months in the southern Philippines, Vice President Joseph Estrada said Monday.

The rural priest, Cirilo Nacorda, was freed by his fundamentalist captors without ransom in Basilan Sunday night and was handed over to the military.

"Father Nacorda was not harmed, he is alive. He has no wounds. He is very healthy," Mr. Estrada told reporters in Zamboanga City on nearby Mindanao Island.

He said the priest would probably meet President Fidel Ramos when the Philippine leader arrives in Zamboanga on his way home from a state visit to Brunei.

Fr. Nacorda, 36, was among 74 people abducted

on a highway in Basilan, 900 kilometres south of Manila, on June 8.

Fifteen of the 74 were shot and killed soon after being seized, but 57 were later released. One man escaped.

His kidnappers, members of the radical Islamic Abu Sayyaf group, had demanded a three-million-peso (\$115,000) ransom for his freedom and threatened to kill him when the military launched a full-scale assault on their strongholds.

Mr. Estrada, who heads the presidential Anti-Crime Commission, said the release followed negotiations with the Abu Sayyaf.

Fr. Nacorda's kidnapping and the military assault had threatened peace talks between the Manila government and the moderate Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) for a peaceful settle-

ment of a Muslim rebellion in the southern islands.

It also brought tension between Muslims and Christians and raised fears of religious war in Mindanao, where at least 50,000 people were killed at the height of an MNLF-led separatist war in the 1970s.

The Abu Sayyaf, which means sword bearer, have been blamed by the military for a string of bombings and kidnappings in the south. Apart from Fr. Nacorda, they have abducted two foreign priests, two nuns and a handful of businessmen over the past two years.

The military at first dismissed the Abu Sayyaf as bandits, but later acknowledged the group of radical fighters who had split away the mainstream MNLF had become a national menace.

Nicaragua police arrest alleged hijacker

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AFP) — A Salvadorean who said he was persecuted by his government was arrested here Sunday after forcing a Panamanian jetliner to land in Managua and holding the pilot and co-pilot hostage, officials said.

Government Minister Alfredo Mendizeta said that police took Angel Salgueda, 34, into custody after he hoisted up for three hours in the Boeing 737-200 owned by the Compania Panamena de Aviacion (COPA).

toothpaste, said Mr. Mendizeta.

Nicaraguan radio earlier said that Mr. Salgueda, who claimed to be armed with explosives, boarded the plane travelling from Guatemala City to Panama City in San Salvador and demanded to be taken to a European or South American country.

The pilot said the aircraft did not have enough fuel and the hijacker allowed him to fly to Nicaragua, a COPA spokesman said.

The passengers were allowed to deplane in Managua's Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport, but the hijacker continued to hold the pilot

and co-pilot hostage, COPA said.

Officials initially put the number of passengers at 67 but later raised it to 78. Nicaraguan officials negotiated with Mr. Salgueda from the air control tower at the airport and explosives experts were called to the scene.

Mr. Salgueda also carried a handwritten note indicating that he felt persecuted by the conservative Salvadorean government of President Armando Calderon Fournier. In El Salvador, recovering from a nearly 12-year civil war that ended in 1992, no group has come forward to claim a link with Mr. Salgueda.

U.S. warms to Romania

BUCHAREST (R) — Three years after isolating Romania because of anti-democratic violence, the United States has sent strong signals to Bucharest that it now wants Romania as an ally and wishes to let bygones be bygones.

Visits by two senior U.S. officials over the past month have hammered home Washington's new commitment to Romania and its view that the Balkan state's minority left-wing government is on the right path of free-market and democratic reform.

"Romania stands at the chances of becoming a model of prosperity and success, where all citizens, regardless of their ethnic origin, religious belief or any other difference, can enjoy an

TV campaign rebounds on Berlusconi team

ROME (R) — Italian media magnate Silvio Berlusconi's government, which has just weathered a political storm, has stirred fresh controversy with a television advertising campaign intended to improve its image.

The campaign, launched at the weekend, has awoken the political debate from its traditional summer slumber and inflamed passions in the government and opposition.

The row comes as the opposition edges closer to unity following an informal meeting at a seaside restaurant Sunday between Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) leader Massimo D'Alema and his Popular Party counterpart Rocco Buttiglione.

"The less a government does the more it must advertise the little it is capable of doing," said Northern League leader Umberto Bossi, the most difficult ally in Mr. Berlusconi's conservative coalition.

Prime Minister Berlusconi, who swept to power in March following a sick, made-for-

Nigeria's oil strike enters 6th week

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's crippling oil strike entered a sixth week Monday with no sign of an end to the crisis over workers' demands that detained opposition politician Moshood Abiola be freed and installed as president.

Mr. Abiola, widely believed to be the winner of last year's annulled presidential election, remained in police custody, in the inland capital Abuja after rejecting bail conditions imposed by a court trying him on treason charges.

"The strike will go on for as long as it is necessary," Warribe Agamene, national president of the blue-collar oil workers union NUPENG told Reuters.

The 150,000-strong NUPENG began the strike on July 4 to press Nigeria's military rulers to free Mr. Abiola unconditionally and

hand power to him. It was joined two weeks later by the 50,000-strong white-collar oil workers union PENGAS-SAN.

Mr. Abiola, a multi-millionaire businessman, was arrested on June 23 and charged with treason after proclaiming himself president in defiance of Nigeria's military rulers.

The Abuja court trying Mr. Abiola, at a surprise hearing Friday, offered to free him on condition he agreed to keep the peace, did not address political meetings and did not leave Nigeria without permission.

"It is better for him to remain in jail than to accept such conditions," Mr. Agamene said.

Friday's bail offer followed talks between the government and the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) union federation which last week sus-

ended a brief general strike to allow the talks on its demand for Mr. Abiola's unconditional release.

A senior NLC official who has been party to the negotiations said union chiefs met Mr. Abiola at the weekend and both sides were disappointed with the conditions of the bail offer. "We both agreed that the conditions are not fair," the union source said.

The oil workers strike remains the most devastating of the industrial actions taken so far to seek Mr. Abiola's release.

It has disrupted domestic fuel supplies and bitten deep into the country's crude oil production and exports, which provides more than 90 per cent of its earnings.

Mr. Agamene said crude output and export were down to 35 per cent of normal levels.

Crown Prince: Peace should do away with disparity, social injustice

FOLLOWING IS the full text of the speech made by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan before the inauguration of the Aqaba-Eilat crossing.

IT GIVES me great pleasure to join you all today to inaugurate the Aqaba-Eilat border gate. It is indeed a significant step towards the full implementation of the provisions of the Washington Declaration, signed at the White House by His Majesty King Hussein together with President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The Declaration comes after years of relentless efforts by His Majesty King Hussein to obtain a durable and comprehensive resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Without prejudice to the outcome of negotiations on the delineation and demarcation of our common boundaries, the opening of this border gate demonstrates our joint commitment to make a concrete contribution to peace-making. Our presence today signifies our determination to translate our intentions into tangible realities on the ground. Only in this way can we overcome the legacy of suffering and torment that dominates the daily life of our peoples, and poisons the conduct of regional and international relations in this part of the world.

Jordan and Israel lie at the heart of the Middle East and constitute an important confluence between three continents — Europe, Asia and Africa. It has always been our vision, that under conditions of peace, the Middle East would be marked by the free movement of persons, capital and goods across national frontiers. The Aqaba-Eilat border gate represents a physical demonstration of our desire to promote inter-regional transportation network. Our region is the birthplace of civilisation; it is the crossroads of different cultures where their interaction has produced the sophistication that has enthralled mankind throughout the ages.

Henceforth third country citizens will be able to marvel at this precious heritage. It is only the first step in the long search to realise our vision of normal and harmonious good neighbourliness. Let this gateway be a token of our resolve that soon our peoples will be able to share, exchange and marvel at their common legacy.

Allow me to reiterate what I said when I met with President Clinton in the presence of Foreign Minister (Shimon) Peres at the White House last October. The fundamental task of peace building is to



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher (centre) shake hands together after the opening of the 'Araba Crossing' between Aqaba and Eilat on Monday (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

alleviate the prevalent conditions of poverty and deprivation in many segments of our societies. We agreed on the need to put an end to the politics of despair and dispossession. Peace should relate directly to the basic interests of those who bore the brunt

of war by building material interdependence in major economic spheres. Let the opening of this border gate in this particular location mark the foundation stone on which we intend to build our common future. I now turn to our great

Jordanian people, who have always sought peace and justice, to say that this day that witnesses the inauguration of this border crossing must be viewed as a symbol of the passage of the just peace which we envision for our future generations. Indeed,

the challenges of peace require further commitment, effort, and labour to translate the slogan of peace into the reality of progress and prosperity on the ground. Peace, it should be added, must spark our innovative abilities and make this desert

a success story to be remembered by succeeding generations.

You have always stood firm and steadfast behind your Hashemite leadership in peace no less than in war, and have unfailingly been the best of family in adversity. As such, you shall always remain, as His Majesty, the leader, has always known you to be, the best kinsfolk when a new dawn breaks on a region that has long suffered agony and bitterness.

I cannot but recall here the souls of our faithful martyrs; the martyrs of 1948, of 1967, and of all the long years of struggle. They gave their blood in defence of the right of their people and of their homeland to a secure and prosperous life.

Throughout history, Jordan has been a gateway through which civilisations have passed and a crossing point upon which various currents have converged; none of which has ever altered the true identity of this country. Having always been a bridge to hope and well-being, Jordan stood as a great portal of hope to the thousands who passed through this homeland during the Gulf crisis — the thousands with whom we shared what little food, water, and medicine we had. Today, we open this crossing

point to our guests from other countries. We are giving them the opportunity to see the facts for themselves and to our cultural heritage. In turn they may convey to their peoples and nations in due course a humanitarian message of the region's dire need for development and all that development requires in terms of water, energy and infrastructure. This will contribute to the alleviation of the suffering of our Jordanian individual.

The crossing point also stands as an assertion of our understanding of the concept of openness and communication with the world without forsaking our rights. What we witness today is indeed yet a further message to the world that conflict in this part of the world has gone on for too long; and that we desire that it go on no longer.

Let it be a testimony to our joint commitment to turn the Jordan Rift Valley into a valley of hope, development and prosperity for all our peoples. A durable peace must be underpinned by the will to do away with disparity and social injustice and build a commonwealth of shared human interest.

And I quote the Bible: "Turning the valley of trouble into a gate of hope."

Thank you.

Christopher: U.S. will walk the final miles

FOLLOWING IS the full text of remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the inauguration of the Aqaba-Eilat border crossing-point.

THE GREAT American author, William Faulkner, once proclaimed "man will not merely endure; he will prevail." Today, again, your two countries fortify our faith in that basic proposition. Through 46 years of pain and suffering and conflict, Israel and Jordan have endured. Their war is over. Now peace will prevail.

Today Israel and Jordan are lifting the spirits of a wounded region, by reminding it of the courage and

honour, the compassion and sacrifice that two peoples can demonstrate in the search for peace. From this ancient and sacred land, a new message of hope and reconciliation, born of blood and tears, has gone out. The longings and prayers of generations of Arabs and Jews are being fulfilled.

Just two weeks ago, King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin came together at the White House to sign the Washington Declaration. There, with the world as their witness, they declared an end to the conflict between their two nations. There, they pledged to build the bonds of a real and lasting peace between their peoples.

Today, a half a world away, that promise is being redeemed. Here, in the land of miracles, the rhetoric of peacemaking is being translated into reality. With the eyes of the world once more upon them, Israel and Jordan have acted with boldness and courage. A crossing point is opened, a wall torn down. The burden formed by decades of fear and suspicion has been eased.

The area where we meet today is heavy with history and emotion. It is a place of legendary achievement, where in 1917 the forces of (Sharif) Hussein, great grandfather of Jordan's King and Crown Prince, won the

battle for Aqaba. It has been a place of tension, whose lands and nearby waterways have been the source of heated disputes, and even war, between Israel and its Arab neighbours. And it has been a place of longing, where Israelis and Jordanians could stand on the beaches of Eilat and Aqaba and see each other, but not know each other.

Today, that begins to change. By bringing to life the promise of the Washington Declaration, we will weave together the fabric of human contact and mutual interest that are the foundation of genuine peace. Through open borders and open phones, road links and

air links, economic cooperation and security coordination, Jordan and Israel will, step by step, transform their relations, as well as their region.

We know that there is yet much work to do. We know that the forces of hatred are using terror and violence to undermine our efforts. They must not and shall not succeed. We must continue to push ahead until our goal is achieved. The only route home for all of us lies through the gates of a comprehensive and lasting peace — between Israel and Jordan, and between Israel and all her neighbours. And as President Clinton pledged last month in Washington, "Just as we

have supported you in coming this far, the United States will walk the final miles with you."

Your Highness, Mr. Prime Minister, for you and your peoples, history has come full circle. From this place, at this time, the road of reconciliation between Arab and Jew has, literally, been opened again. Now, we must take it. The journey ahead remains long. But our step is steady. Our vision is clear. And our destination lies plainly in sight. It is peace. Full peace. Peace for Israel. Peace for Jordan. Peace for all the peoples of the Middle East.

Thank you.



Walls are tumbling because peoples, leaders want it — Rabin

FOLLOWING IS the text of the address made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at the inauguration of the Aqaba-Eilat crossing point.

Your Royal Highness, the Secretary of State of the United States, Prime Minister of Jordan, the foreign minister of Israel, ministers of the governments of Jordan and Israel, Ladies and gentlemen. The stage master working in the service of history has done us a great favour today. He has chosen this site as the ideal backdrop for the new relationships being formed between Israel and Jordan.

We are literally seated at this time and this place — all of us, Israelis, Jordanians and Americans — on the remains of the past. We are sitting on an old minefield which was cleared only three days ago. This is what divided Israel and Jordan for decades. This is the field in which death and destruction were sown.

We are sitting at this time and at this place all of us, Israelis and Jordanians, before the future. To our right and to our left stand New Israel-Jordan border crossing terminals, which sprang up overnight in short time. Tourists and businessmen from all over the world will start to pass through here from Eilat to Aqaba, from Israel to Jordan and from Jordan to Israel.

Three days ago this was a wilderness. Only sand and more sand. Today this place breathes with new life. Three weeks ago the dream of peace was far away.

Today it is materialising — telephone lines, tourism. Soon it will seem as though this is the way it has always been.

Ladies and gentlemen. They say to us the pace of events is too fast, we cannot keep up, wait a moment. Your Royal Highness, our friends in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, we have waited 46 years, we have gone through war, pain and suffering. To prevent further loss and sorrow, we cannot wait even one day more.

It looks like the walls of hostility are tumbling down before our eyes. And all this would have been impossible had not the two peoples, the Jordanians and the Israelis, and their leadership, wanted this to happen. This is the first step on a long journey. There are still problems, difficulties, obstacles, and challenges ahead.

But the farsightedness which has characterised our contacts in the past and which has compelled us to take the first steps towards peace and the spirit of responsibility and pragmatism, (these) in the end will reach comprehensive peace with the Kingdom of Jordan and with all our neighbouring Arab countries.

Ladies and gentlemen in the Arava, of which Hosea says in the Bible, "the wilderness and solitary place shall be glad and the desert shall rejoice and bloom as the rose."

We hereby declare the Arava border crossing between Israel and Jordan now open. Mazal Tov. Congratulations.

Araba Crossing is opened

(Continued from page 1) brunt of war" through tangible realities on the ground, also addressed Jordanians in Arabic.

"You have always stood firm and steadfast behind your Hashemite leadership in peace no less than in war, and have unfailingly been the best of family in adversity," said the Crown Prince, who ended his speech quoting the Old Testament in Hebrew, to the applause of the Israeli audience.

The Aqaba-Eilat crossing, one of the confidence-building measures in the Washington Declaration signed by His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin on July 25 formally ending the 46-year-old state of war, was another step towards eventual normalisation of relations between the two countries.

The inauguration of the crossing, some 40 kilometres from the town of Aqaba, followed the opening on Sunday of direct telephone links between the two countries, with a call from Israeli President Ezer Weizman to King Hussein. Israel has also pumped four million cubic metres of water to the Kingdom in what was seen by many as a symbolic gesture in the context of the outstanding water disputes between the two countries.

"We are literally sitting on the remains of the past," said Mr. Rabin, who was joined on the podium by Mr. Peres, who was the first to hold a public meeting with a Jordanian leader when he and Crown Prince Hassan met in Washington last October.

"This was a minefield, cleared only three days ago," Mr. Rabin told Monday's gathering. "We are sitting before the future," said Mr. Rabin, who was accompanied by almost the entire government of Israel, former Foreign Minister Ezer Eban and negotiator Eliyahu Rubenstein.

Mr. Christopher, who arrived from Damascus after tough talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, reiterated the U.S. pledge made by U.S. President Clinton in Washington last month to continue to assist the two countries to reach a full peace.

"Just as we have supported you in coming this far, the

United States will walk the final miles with you," Mr. Christopher said quoting President Clinton. Mr. Christopher told journalists at a press conference held later at the King's palace that President Clinton had written to the Paris Club of debtor nations recommending debt relief for Jordan (see related story).

"Here, in the land of miracles, the rhetoric of peacemaking is being translated into reality. With the eyes of the world once more upon them, Israel and Jordan have acted with boldness and courage," said Christopher, who later held talks with King Hussein and Mr. Rabin at the King's residence.

"A crossing point is open, a wall torn down," said Mr. Christopher, who warned against the "forces of hatred" and cautioned that the only way to realise the goal of peace was a comprehensive and lasting solution.

After the speeches, 10 sons and daughters of servicemen killed in action from each side shook each other's hands and exchanged gifts. The Jordanians, mostly members of the armed forces, presented the Israelis with a silver and bronze replica of the Nabatean city of Petra. The Israelis gave the Jordanians a medal with Eilat inscribed on it.

Saleh Mujalli Khreishe, whose father Khaid died in Jerusalem in 1948 while leading a Jordanian brigade in the first Arab-Israeli war, said it was "strange that I am here today when it was Yitzhak Rabin that had led the brigade which killed my father."

"Wars are launched for the sake of peace," he said resolutely. "Reality dictates that this should happen."

Tears sprang to the eyes of some of the select Jordanian invitees as the 10 children of martyrs faced the Israelis. "This is difficult to take, it is too painful," a prominent politician told Jordan Times. "The suffering cannot be removed with a handshake."

After the martyrs' children exchanged gifts, veterans from both sides also stood facing each other, shaking hands and exchanging symbolic tokens of peace. The Jordanian invitees did not applaud.

Jordanian and Israeli southern commands, Mohammad Lalkawi and Youssef Mishlef, saluted each other, capping the end of hostilities.

Explaining the subdued Jordanian reaction compared to the jubilant Israeli mood one official attending the ceremony said: "Of course everyone is shocked. But this is the price of peace."

Mr. Eban himself admitted the difficulty posed by the psychological barrier. "The Jordanians had to cross more ground than us," said Mr. Eban, an Israeli elder statesman and one of five dignitaries who attended the lunch at King Hussein's palace after the ceremony. "They didn't accept our presence as legitimate. They've made a tremendous leap now."

Late last night, municipal cars could be seen hanging banners in support to the King's moves.

"Go ahead and we are behind you," read one banner hung on an Aqaba street.

At the end of the day, in a fitting gesture, the King took Mr. Rabin and Mr. Christopher on his yacht showing old enemies can become very good friends.

"It is unbelievable that decades of war have ended so quickly," said a Jordanian attending the ceremony. He expressed hope that this rapprochement would reflect positively on the bilateral talks due to start today at the Dead Sea works on the Israeli side on the issues of border demarcation and water.

Israeli soldiers and ordinary citizens stood in Israel watching the ceremony. Israelis, holding their passports, waved them to the Israeli border guard.

"I always spoke of peace to my students," said Tamia, a political science teacher in Eilat attending the ceremony. "Once Israelis are allowed to come to Jordan, I will be the first to come. I am sure you have a beautiful country. We always look across the bay to Aqaba."

The Israeli jubilation was very visible as King Hussein's motor yacht roared and an Israeli flotilla lurched into the deep blue waters to greet him.

King hosts Rabin at Aqaba

(Continued from page 1)

that Jordan was "dissatisfied" with the PLO for its lack of coordination with the Kingdom beginning with the Oslo agreement, delaying the signing of a PLO-Jordan economic agreement and misconstruing Jordan's position on Jerusalem.

The meeting with the representatives of Jordanian, Israeli and American media in the garden of the King's residence in Aqaba was another step in a process towards normalising relations between former enemies.

Sitting in the heat shaded by palm trees, the King told journalists and officials from the three sides that he hoped future generations would experience "the kind of peace that I have never experienced over the many many years that have passed."

"I hope that it is something that we will leave for all peoples, for men, women and children to live in and enjoy in the future," the King said. Secretary of State Christopher, who earlier at a ceremony inaugurating the first Eilat-Aqaba crossing, pledged that his country will "walk the final mile" in assisting Jordan and Israel to reach a full peace, and revealed that President Bill Clinton had written to the member states of the Paris Club of creditor nations recommending they write off Jordan's debt.

Jordan, which has already begun to reap the peace dividend after the King signed the Washington Declaration ending 46 years of hostility, owes the 13-member club an estimated \$1.1 billion out of a total of about \$6.6 billion in overall foreign debts.

A senior Jordanian official explained to the Jordan Times that Jordan has been informed by the U.S. secretary of Mr. Clinton's recommendation to the Paris Club and said that if successful "about a third of the Kingdom's debt would have been removed."

Already the U.S. is in the process of writing off \$220 million in Jordan's debt and is due to write off an estimated \$500 million in the next two years.

"I reported to His Majesty and the others today that the

legislation in the United States for debt relief for Jordan is proceeding through Congress at unusually rapid pace," the U.S. secretary told reporters.

"President Clinton has written to the Paris Club a couple of days ago recommending debt relief for Jordan," he said.

Mr. Rabin, who appeared very relaxed at the talks, talked about the signing of the Washington Declaration describing it as a "landmark in the road to peace" before taking questions and pledged his country's commitment to accelerated peace moves and resolution of outstanding problems.

But Jordanian officials said they were disappointed with Mr. Rabin's failure to make a firm commitment on the issues of land and border even though they said they were satisfied with his tone of commitment to handle the negotiations seriously and reach an agreement with Jordan on this issue.

Mr. Rabin, in answer to a question, said that Israel has already pledged itself to finding a solution to this problem but that the demarcation of the boundaries needed accurate work.

"We have agreed that there is tomorrow a beginning of serious negotiations first in the tent later on with such complicated items in the Dead Sea company hotel and negotiations will start and we will do the utmost to reach agreement about this issue and other issues as soon as agreement will be reached," Mr. Rabin said.

"Allow me to remind you that the border between British mandate Palestine and the Kingdom of Jordan has never been marked it has to be done in a very careful accurate way based on maps all kinds of agreements of the past, and the work will be done," he said.

"We made a major decision that we are going to tackle and to solve this issue," he concluded.

But a senior Jordanian official, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, said that Mr. Rabin, despite his commitment to resolving this issue, "was not forthcoming enough." Jordanian officials had

hoped that the Kingdom's "goodwill" overtures to Israel over the past two weeks will be met with concrete commitment on the border and water issues.

"We were disappointed," the senior official said without elaboration.

On the issue of displaced persons, which make a large percentage of Jordan's population, Mr. Rabin also appeared to be dodging a direct response which would commit him to allowing these refugees to return to their homes in the occupied territories.

Revealing that a four-member-committee of Jordan, Palestinians, Egypt and Israel was in the works, Mr. Rabin said that it was part of the agenda of that committee to discuss resolving the problem of displaced persons.

"I do not believe that at this stage it will be advisable to me to say what will be the results," Mr. Rabin said.

Conceding that there was pressure on Israel from "many corners," he said that he believed that "invitations were issued or will be issued for the convening of such a committee and the committee will discuss it."

Mr. Rabin said the new chapter in Israeli-Jordanian relations "serves as an example of what can be achieved in relations between Israel and the other Arab countries."

Turning to the King, Mr. Rabin said of Israel's expanding relations with Jordan: "I don't believe this could be achieved without your vision and courage. You led your people through difficult periods and you make the right decision."

'Long road for Syria, Israel'

(Continued from page 1)

of responses. Hizbollah is believed responsible for bloody attacks on Jews in Buenos Aires, London and possibly Panama. It had also clashed with Israel over the border from Lebanon, where Syria is the dominant political and military force.

"I expressed my concerns about Hizbollah," Mr. Christopher said. "We had a serious discussion of that issue."

Arab Gulf states tighten grip on spending

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states are tightening their grip on spending earnings from their huge crude exports in a bid to tackle chronic budget deficits and avoid draining overseas reserves.

With oil prices languishing at nearly half their 1981 levels, the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states are no longer lavishing funds with some considering imposing taxes and freezing most subsidies.

After spending cuts failed to bridge the gap in most countries, authorities moved to tighten supervision of ministries to ensure they stick to budget allocations and in some cases even cut expenditure.

Such controls were successful in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where government offices now have to get approval from the state-run auditing department to finance new projects.

"The department has become the finance ministry's strong arm in its efforts to force all departments to be rational in their spending and ensure allocations will be used properly," a UAE official told AFP.

"This has produced great results as the budget deficit has turned into a surplus over the past two years without any negative impact on the economy. This has saved the government the effort to tackle the deficit."

Official figures showed a UAE projected deficit of \$470 million for 1993 turned into a surplus of \$14.3 million after actual spending was reduced from \$4.79 billion to \$4.19 billion.

A 1992 deficit of \$400 million also became a surplus of \$572 million after actual expenditure was cut from \$4.72 billion to \$4.22 billion dollars.

The surpluses were

achieved despite high defence spending which sapped nearly half the budgets as the UAE and other Gulf states pressed ahead with plans to bolster their armies.

Qatar, where a budget deficit has persisted for 10 years, is also planning to follow the UAE's example with the auditing department seeking greater powers to ensure more efficient supervision of public finance.

"There are efforts to offset the effects of weak oil prices on our income. This requires tightening expenditure and protecting the country's resources against misuse and mismanagement," the department's undersecretary, Sheikh Fahd bin Jassim Al Thani, told the UAE daily Al Khaleej.

"The department has finalised a draft law that will strengthen its independence so it will carry out its auditing functions effectively. The law

will be put forward to the competent authorities for approval," he said.

Kuwait said last week it hoped its budget deficit would disappear by 2000 when it overcomes financial burdens resulting from the 1990 Iraqi invasion.

Defence expenditure in Kuwait was projected at around \$1.67 billion in the fiscal year 1994-1995, boosting the estimated deficit by 23 per cent to around \$5 billion over the previous year. Without defence allocations, the deficit could be 16 per cent lower.

"Spending in Kuwait had also come under tight control as the budget had gone through several bodies including parliament," a Gulf economist said. "But expenditure is projected higher this year only because of post-war obligations. When they are over, spending could be lower."

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, suffered most from low crude prices forced to borrow virtually annually and withdraw a large part of its overseas assets.

Its financial plight was underscored in the latest budget which slashed expenditure by 19 per cent to curb a widening deficit that has drawn criticism from the International Monetary Fund for the first time.

Spending was projected at \$42.66 billion in 1994, cutting the estimated shortfall to \$1.25 billion from \$7.42 billion.

Oman also trimmed spending by 10 per cent and an Omani official told AFP there could be further cuts throughout the year to eliminate the deficit.

Bahrain was the least affected by weak crude prices as it does not depend heavily on oil exports.

PLO faces fresh squeeze as UAE stops Palestinian tax

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has cancelled a tax on Palestinian workers used to help finance the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which is struggling to pay for self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, PLO sources said Monday.

The move will deprive the PLO of more than \$5 million a year deducted from the nearly 70,000 Palestinians in the Emirates.

The sources said Palestinians working in the UAE, once a key financial backer of the PLO, no longer pay a five per cent "Liberation Tax" destined for the organisation under a long-standing agreement with the oil-rich Gulf state.

"The UAE government no longer deducts five per cent from the monthly salaries of Palestinian employees in the country," a PLO source told

AFP. "The decision took effect from July 1. I do not know the reasons but it is apparently linked to the autonomy agreement between the PLO and Israel."

Israel and the PLO signed a peace agreement last September opening the way to autonomy in Gaza and Jericho.

The UAE and other Gulf states levying taxes on Palestinians more than 20 years ago to support the PLO in its conflict with Israel.

The taxes had earned the group more than \$50 million year before the revenues sharply declined after Kuwait expelled most of its 400,000 Palestinians because of the PLO's backing of Iraq.

amous areas which need funds. PLO employees in the region are also suffering. Most of them have been paid their wages only twice or three times for the past 15 months," he pointed out.

Gulf states were the main financial supporters of the PLO before the Iraqi invasion. They had extended nearly 90 per cent of the \$2-billion pledged by Arab states at the Baghdad summit in 1979. Hundreds of millions of dollars were also channelled to the PLO in grants and private donations.

But Kuwait and other Gulf states have promised to contribute to an international aid package for Palestinians in the self-rule areas. They have stressed such aid would be channelled only through the World Bank.

The PLO sources said Saudi Arabia, which now hosts the largest Palestinian community in the region, was maintaining the liberation tax which it dubs as Zakat, under which Muslims pay part of their earnings to the poor as alms.

The taxes are also still in force in Qatar and Bahrain, which have a relatively small Palestinian community, they added.

"Palestinians in these three countries are still paying taxes for the PLO. There has been no decision to stop them and I do not expect any change in the near future," a spokesman at the PLO office in Qatar told AFP by telephone.

Yemeni president faces economic problems now

SANAA (R) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, victorious over southern rebels, must now improve deteriorating living conditions of 14 million Yemenis to avoid a real threat to his regime, political and diplomatic sources said.

President Saleh, whose forces captured Aden, capital of a self-declared southern Yemeni state, on July 7 after a two-month civil war in what was already one of the Arab World's poorest and least developed countries.

President Saleh now faces the problems of forming a new cabinet, achieving national reconciliation and mending fences with neighbouring countries that sympathised with the south, a political source said.

But his first priority was to alleviate the burden of price increases, an official said.

"The president cut short a tour of the provinces and decided to return to Sanaa (at the weekend) to tackle the problem of increasing prices," the official said, adding that senior officials would meet over the next few days to discuss the issue.

The value of the Yemeni rial against the U.S. dollar has risen on the free market to between 60 and 65 to the dollar against 130 at one stage during the war.

But prices of many consumer goods which went up by more than 300 per cent did not come down.

"People demonstrated admirable restraint over price increases during the war. It is now the duty of the leadership to improve their living conditions. Failure to do this can pose a real threat to Saleh's regime," said a diplomat.

One political source said a

recurrence of the riots over price increases in December 1992 when shops were looted and cars burnt in several Yemeni cities "can pose a fatal blow to the regime. This time it cannot blame it on the YSP."

The riots were then blamed by President Saleh's General Peoples Congress (GPC) on the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), whose leader Ali Salem Al Beidb, then vice-president in a 50-50 coalition between the two parties, led the breakaway southern state.

Mr. Beidb declared a breakaway state on May 21, almost three weeks after the start of civil war, but this collapsed when President Saleh's forces captured Aden.

The official said the immediate task would be to ensure basic supplies through imports and by hitting black marketeers hard.

Several ships are reported to have arrived in the Red Sea port of Hodeida over the past few days carrying sugar. The price of a 50-kilogramme sack which soared to between 6,000 and 7,000 riyals, has gone down to 2,500 riyals residents in Sanaa and Aden said.

A Sanaa court sent 141 traders to jail and has referred several government officials for investigation, the government newspaper Al Thawra said Monday.

President Saleh said his country's losses during the war totalled about \$7.5 billion.

"The economy is below zero. Saleh needs a miracle to get the country out of this situation," another diplomat said.

Meanwhile, Yemen, its relations with Arab Gulf neigh-

bours at an all-time low because of their sympathy for the defeated southerners in the Yemen civil war, hinted Monday it might demand they compensate it for war losses.

"Yemen is considering asking countries that backed the secessionists and provided them with weapons and mercenaries for compensation for human and material losses," said an official source who would not name the countries involved.

"Yemen might lodge a complaint with the U.N. Security Council to ask these countries to pay the necessary compensation," the source told Reuters.

During two months of war that ended July 7, the Sanaa government said the secessionists were getting military and financial support from neighbouring countries. It also said those countries had recruited foreign mercenaries, especially pilots, to help the Aden-based breakaway state.

Although Sanaa did not name the countries, officials pointed at big neighbour Saudi Arabia and further afield at Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. The three were among Gulf states angered by Sanaa's support for Iraq in the 1990/91 Gulf crisis.

Saudi Arabia has categorically denied reports in the Washington Post and the London Sunday Times over the past few days that it hired MiG-29 warplanes and their Russian pilots to fight for the south in the Yemen civil war.

But diplomats said these denials had not dampened excitement in Sanaa over the reports, which appeared to confirm what many northern Yemenis believed.

Iranian parliament moves to protect poor in 5-year budget plan

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian parliament set out a five-year budget plan Monday aimed at protecting the poor in line with a call from the country's spiritual guide Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, parliament sources said.

The measures were aimed at giving the government greater powers in steering the economy in the period from 1995 to 2000, reversing the free-market policies of the past five years.

Prices of basic goods and services will be frozen or subject to gradual increases.

The government was mandated to pursue a protectionist policy to help the poor, regarded as the Islamic regime's main power base.

Ayatollah Khamenei had urged parliament to pay greater attention to Iran's dispossessed and maintain most of the current subsidies on basic

goods.

"Social justice is an important as economic development," he said in a letter to parliament earlier this year.

The Iranian leader has the authority to set the country's political, social, economic and security guidelines.

In response to his call, parliament set up a committee of specialists from each of the assembly's subcommittees to review the draft budget presented by the government.

The government had asked for a 20 per cent hike in the cost of medicines and other increases to help achieve "real prices" for basic goods. In return, the government would improve the country's social security system to provide a safety net for the needy.

But the committee rejected the call and obliged the government to maintain a sub-

sidy of \$420 million on baby milk.

One member of the committee, Mohammad Hashemi Rahbari, said parliament had decided to create a balance between the different sectors of the economy.

Parliament also decided to provide special financial incentives for members of the Islamic volunteers militia and other political cadres and give them a greater role in economic management.

Heeding Ayatollah Khamenei's advice, parliament also obliged the government to repay 25 per cent of the country's foreign debt by the end of the five-year plan.

Iran's total foreign debt, estimated at some \$30 billion, built up due to a plunge in oil revenues last year and excessive imports on credit terms in 1990-1992.

Chinese overseas investment totals \$5.2b

BEIJING (AFP) — China has approved \$5.2 billion of overseas investment by domestic firms since 1979, a report has said.

By June, the minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation had approved 1,704 non-trading ventures with Chinese investment of \$1.7 billion and 2,854 trading ventures in which the Chinese partners put up \$3.47 billion, the China Daily Business Weekly said.

However officials acknowledged that the true outflow of Chinese capital since China opened up to the outside world in 1979 was much higher, with many local firms failing to register their activities with the ministry.

They estimated the actual figure of Chinese assets in ventures abroad at some \$20 billion.

The non-trading ventures covered sectors such as natural resources, transport, finance and other services.

The choice is yours. The colour is you.

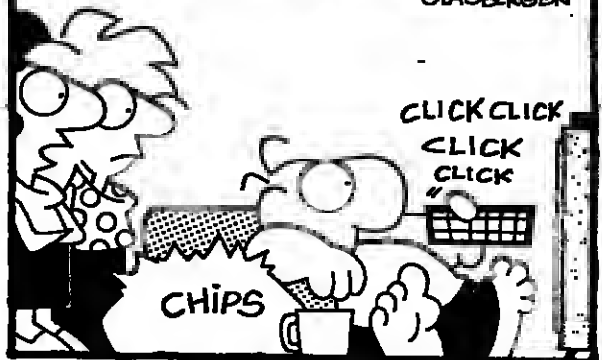
This is the unique Jewelry of:

DAJANI'S JEWELLERS

6th Circle - Amman.

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



"MARRIAGE CHANGES A MAN. I swear Stanley gained five pounds while he was standing at the altar!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Who gets this?

SELIA

DAAMM

PLIDIM

STEBIC

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Jumbles: TYING HAREM ENMITY PUSHER

Answer: What the bank got from its favorable yield offer — HIGH INTEREST

Peanuts



Andy Capp

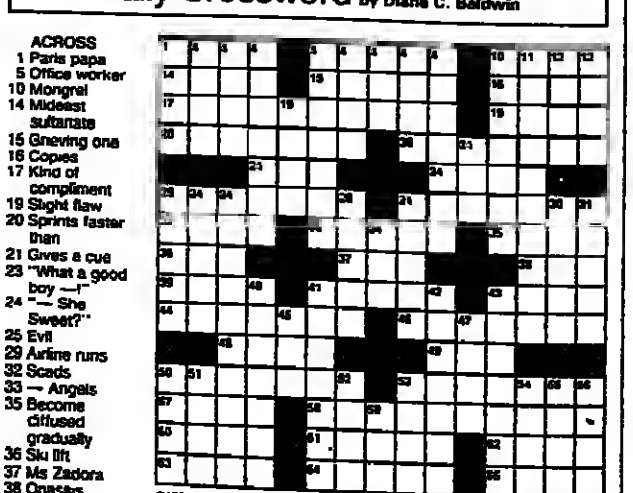


Mutt'n'Jeff

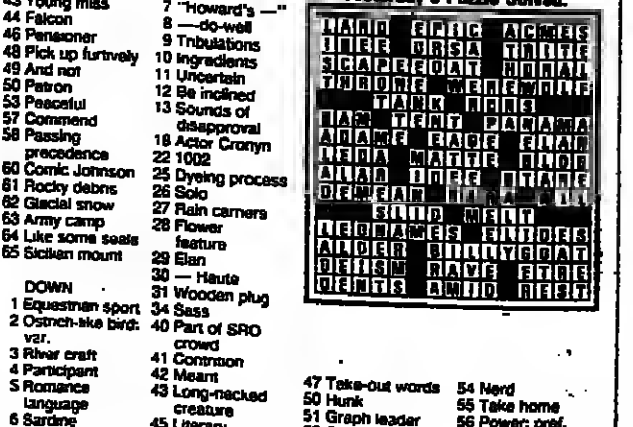


Horoscope not received

THE Daily Crossword by Diane C. Baldwin



Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers



Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 8/8/94	Tokyo Close 8/8/94
Sterling Pound	1.5415	1.5455
Deutsche Mark	1.5797	1.5771
Swiss Franc	1.3335	1.3310
French Franc	5.4090	5.4092
Japanese Yen	100.20	100.44
European Currency Unit	1.2100	1.2098

* 100 Per 100

** European Opening in 6:00 a.m. GMT

Source: Reuters

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.25	4.62	4.93	5.50
Sterling Pound	5.00	5.31	5.68	6.37
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.93
Swiss Franc	4.00	4.06	4.18	4.37
French Franc	5.31	5.31	5.50	5.75
Japanese Yen	1.93	2.06	2.06	2.31
European Currency Unit	5.68	5.81	6.00	6.25

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6940	0.6960
Sterling Pound	1.0700	1.0754
Deutsche Mark	0.4393	0.4415
Swiss Franc	0.5208	0.5234
French Franc	0.1285	0.1291
Japanese Yen	0.6908	0.6943
Dutch Guilder	0.3912	0.3932
Swedish Krona	0.0441	0.0443
Italian Lira	0.0441	0.0443
Belgian Franc	0.0441	0.0443

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8250	1.8420
Lebanese Lira	0.040355	0.041875
Saudi Riyal	0.1847	0.1861
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100	2.3500
Omani Riyal	0.1894	0.1917
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2250
Omani Riyal	1.7840	1.7990
UAE Dirham	0.1884	0.1893
Greek Drachma	0.2675	0.3085
Cypriot Pound	1.3745	1.4950

Arabs flock to Egypt, help reverse tourism decline

CAIRO (R) — The Arab tourists season has started in Egypt and this year they are back in force, filling hotels and boosting sales but upsetting some residents.

"Eighty to 95 per cent of our occupancy for the last few months has been citizens from Arab countries. Last year, it was much less," says Sherif Ali, sales executive for the Cairo Sheraton, a five-star luxury hotel overlooking the Nile.

Staying for periods ranging from three days to three months, the tourists — mostly from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other countries in the Arabian Gulf — represent a hefty annual revenue to Egypt, which relies on tourism for a large part of its

foreign currency earnings.

This is the first season of recovery for the multi-million dollar industry since Muslim militants in 1992 launched a violent campaign targeting tourists in an attempt to wreck the economy and overthrow the government.

Most four and five-star hotels now boast 100 per cent occupancy rates, a five-fold increase since earlier this year.

For many Arabs, Egypt represents an Arabian "Paris", offering entertainment not available at home.

"We come here every summer to enjoy the theatre, the cinema and the night life. The Egyptians are fun people, and we always enjoy our time," said Mohammad

Saeed, a 23-year-old Saudi Arabian sporting fashionable sunglasses and a trendy haircut.

Frequenting gambling casinos and night-clubs, both outlawed by Islamic sharia law, or cruising down Cairo's main boulevards seems to be part of this enjoyment.

"They come down from their rented apartments and hang around waiting for friends or listening to music, watching the people go by. We do good business because they like to buy the latest tapes," said Ali Mohammad, a seller on Ahmad Abdul Aziz Street, a favourite haunt for younger tourists.

Another attraction for the

Arabs appears to be shopping. The newspaper Al Akhbar said that 60 per cent of the total goods sold during the summer sales went to Arabs and they were spending five times as much as last year.

"The Egyptian cottons are very nice, so are the wood products. The prices are right too with Europe as expensive as it is," said a Kuwaiti woman who did not want her name printed.

But hoteliers said the Arabs, renowned big spenders, seemed to be more careful with their finances this year.

"No unnecessary room services expenses, no big meals

at the outlets this year. I guess they are being careful," Mr. Ali said.

Room rates at the five-star hotels they frequent range from \$130 to \$190 a night in a double room and minimum charges for night-clubs are at least 100 Egyptian pounds (\$30).

But the reasons some Egyptians dread the annual pilgrimage to Cairo have their roots in moral issues.

"God damn them they come for the liquor and the women and the police know what they are doing in those rented apartments that are no better than whores' houses but they let them go for the money they bring," said

Samir Moursi, a taxi driver.

A resident of Agouza district expressed disgust at the sight of a man playing the flute as a young girl danced in the streets around his house to attract the Arabs.

But Hassan Ahmad, a taxi driver who posts himself in front of the Semiramis International with its 92 per cent Arab occupancy, had no objections to their presence.

"Let them come. They bring money for all of us. If someone will do something for money they will do it with whomever has the money, Arab or European. Aren't we more deserving of their money than the European?" he asked.

Shares of Saudi banks hit hardest in half year market fall

ABU DHABI (R) — Saudi bank shares were hardest hit in a market that saw its overall value slump by 30 per cent in the first half of this year. Saudi stock market is showing signs of recovery, economists said.

The overall index for the Gulf's biggest stock market fell to 128.80 points in the middle of July from 181.68 points in January. Bank shares lost almost half of their value.

By the end of July the 100-point overall index showed its first signs of recovery with a rise to 138.09 points but analysts said investors are still holding back.

"We have seen a case of a slight upward movement from that bottom level but we haven't yet seen a full recovery," said Abdul Aziz Al Dukheil, president of Finance and Investment.

Brokers predicted in April

that the fall for all Saudi stocks, hit with the rest of the economy since the beginning of the year by lower oil prices, had bottomed out and should steady in the second half of 1994.

"In general the market is still waiting for a big push to take it upward from the downward level it found after the major drop in stock prices in April 1994," Sheikh Dukheil said.

Oil prices bounce back as Nigerian strike continues

LONDON (R) — Oil prices rebounded Monday as the five-week-old oil workers' strike in Nigeria, which has slashed output by 20 per cent, showed no signs of ending.

Traders said the recovery was hardly surprising given the heavy fall Friday when oil prices closed more than 50 cents down on perceptions that Nigeria's crisis was easing.

"It was the bounce we expected. The market suspended reality Friday but we started the week on the realisation that it's still a grave situation in Nigeria," said Peter Gignoux, head of the London energy desk at Smith, Barney.

The September futures contract on the International Petroleum Exchange for Brent Blend crude oil, the North Sea crude oil which serves as a world benchmark, touched a high of \$18.26 Monday, up 40 cents from Friday's close but down from last week's peak of \$19.41, a 15-month high.

However, prices later eased back on news that a United Nations draft resolution permitting Turkey to flush out a pipeline containing Iraqi oil could be presented to the Security Council by the end of August.

The possibility that as much as 27 million barrels of Iraqi oil could hit the market as a result of the flush — aimed at saving the pipeline from further corrosion — has haunted the oil market since it was first proposed months ago.

Oil prices peaked on Aug. 1 on news that the strike — now in its sixth week — had cut Nigeria's 1.9 million barrel per day (b/d) production by as much as 25 per cent.

But heavy selling hit the market Friday afternoon when Nigeria's federal court, in a hastily-called emergency session, offered president claimant Moshood Abiola conditional bail.

Mr. Abiola's lawyer, who did not submit the bail application, described Friday's hearing as bizarre and Mr. Abiola's relatives dismissed the offer as a ploy by Nigeria's military rulers to silence him. Mr. Abiola, widely believed to have won annulled presidential elections last year, has been in custody since June and is being tried for treason.

Oil unions PENGASSAN and NUPENG said the move, which they deemed political on the part of the military government, made them more determined to step up their strike action.

The unions are demanding that the military authorities hand power to Mr. Abiola. "We are not going to call off our strike. In fact we will intensify the action," PENGASSAN President Bola Olowunni said Saturday. "This court thing is a ruse."

Industry sources estimate the strikes are cutting Nigeria's crude oil output by about 20 per cent. Some oil firms are now convincing staff members to return to work.

Oil prices were also boosted Monday by a report from influential newsletter Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) that oil production of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), of which Nigeria is a member, fell in July.

Traders said the steady, not higher, OPEC output and expectation of higher demand during the northern hemisphere winter, should underpin oil prices.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3812/22	Canadian dollar
	1.5825/25	Deutsche marks
	1.775/85	Dutch guilders
	1.3337/47	Swiss francs
	22.571/61	Belgian francs
	5.4137/87	French francs
	1576.97/8	Italian lire
	100.85/99	Japanese yen
	7.7264/64	Swedish crowns
	6.9035/85	Norwegian crowns
	6.2160/10	Danish crowns
	\$1.5422/32	
One sterling	\$1.7750/71.90	
One ounce of gold	\$377.50/377.90	

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

VILLA D'ANGELO
Authentic Italian Restaurant
Jabal Amman
Tel. 638212
Air-conditioned Lounge and Outside Terrace

FOR RENT & SALE
Many villas and apartments furnished or unfurnished.
For more details call:
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel. 810605/810609/810520
Fax: 810520

A SECURE FLAT/OTEL
Sweifiyah
Ticino
Flat/O.Tel
SECURITY
HOSPITALITY
GASTRONOMY
Cheers Cafe
Hamburgers+Pizzas
ELITE CAFE

TALK OF THE TOWN DISCOTHEQUE
Open nightly
From 9.00 P.M.
Except Tuesday closed
Monday: Drinks All Night Long
Buy One Get Two
A Menu of Delicious Snacks
Tel. 685211 Fax. 617779
Middle East Hotel - Shmeisani

La Coquette
French Cuisine
Lunch & Dinner
7 days a week
Enjoy Our Selection of...
SEA FOOD
Tel. 680093/4 Fax. 623664
Shmeisani-Near Babiche
Amman - Jordan

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION CALL
667171/6-670141/4
Ext. 223

La Vita Lounge
12:00 pm - v - Late

SZECHWAN GARDENS CHINESE RESTAURANT
Typical Chinese Foods
Skilled Chinese Chefs
Open 11:30 - 3:30 & 6:30 - Midnight
Take away is available
Shit Al-Arab Street
Um Uthman Commercial Centre
Tel.: 861174
Once Tasted, Always Loved

SANABEL REAL ESTATE
FOR RENT
Deluxe Villas and Apartments in Amman.
For further details please call
SANABEL REAL ESTATE
TEL: 864230 FAX 864231

The Classics Of The Classics!!
Ticino
Reserve
Just for you!
V. affordable prices
V.V. Cool!!
Time Out Bar!!
Sweifiyah - 863944

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room.
"Satellite T.V. Reception"
DAROTEL
Amman - Tel. 607193
P.O.Box 9403 - Fax 602434
Telex 23888 DAROTL JO
Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT
Mecca Street, Yarmouk
Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket
Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only
Tel: 318214
Come and taste our specialties
Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight
Air Conditioned Hall

RESTAURANT CHINA
The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan
1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahlyyah Girls School
Take away is available
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
7:00 - Midnight
Tel. 638968

To Suit All Budgets
FURNISHED UNFURNISHED VILLAS & LOTS OF FLATS
FOR RENT
Jordan Property Consultants
Tel. 829882
Fax. 829883

Leuci
New 2 safety fuses in each lamp
Conformity with the safety standards EN 60432 and IEC 432
- LEUCI quality system in accordance with the standards ISO 9000
Tel. 613746 - 613622

SMARTZ International Cuisine
Summer Garden
Lunches
Dinners
Drinks
Snacks
Open Noon to Midnight
Seven Days a Week
TELEPHONE: 815987

SELECT HOTEL
Superior Hotel Services for Businessmen & Families & its
NeGrEsCo Bar
Good Drinks & Excellent Snacks
Open Noons & Evenings
Jabal Al Webdeh/Tel. 638111/638112

Clarks
KURDI STORES
Suwafiya Tel. 827105

STUDIO HAIG
Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:-
• **JUMBO photo** size 30% larger
• **Free enlargement** 20 x 30 cm
Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Sweifiyah Tel. 823891

Cleaning Services Every Day
fast, efficient, and professional Cleaners
Phone 604671
Electrolux

Milano
Pizza
Pasta
Exotic Sandwiches & Hamburgers
Seated
Take-A-Way
Home Delivery
Shmeisani - Tel. 680670

Late surge earns Anton 10,000 metre title

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — After 25 laps it came down to a kicking duel. And that's where Spaniards, World Cup quarterfinalists, feel they have an advantage.

Abel Anton surged past Vincent Rousseau of Belgium with only 10 metres left Sunday to win the 10,000 metres at the European Athletics Championships by six tenths of a second.

The furious finish, in a personal best of 28 minutes, 6.03 seconds, earned the 31-year-old Spaniard his first medal in a major championship.

Rousseau, running his first 10,000 of the season, led the race coming into the stretch. But he couldn't answer Anton's final kick and settled with the silver medal.

"I knew during the last 2,000 metres that I would win," Anton said. "I was very happy with the track, which is not very fast."

"I benefited from the slow pace. This victory is no surprise because I had faith in my sprint. I felt confident during the whole race because no one was prepared to commit themselves to a fast pace."

The latest big Spanish race victory came in the Barcelona Olympics two years ago, when Fermín Cacho used similar tactics to win the 1,500-metre gold medal.

Anton's best previous performance was a victory in the 10,000 metres at the 1987 European Cup finals.

An estimated crowd of 30,000 was on hand at Helsinki's renovated Olympic Stadium, including the former Finnish Long distance great Lasse Viren, who won Olympic gold medals in the 5,000 and 10,000 in the 1972 and 1976 summer games.

Rousseau was timed in 28:06.63 and Germany's Stéphane Franke, who barely missed a bronze medal in last year's World Championships, placed third in 28:07.95.

"It was a very close finish," Rousseau said. "But I couldn't do anything earlier. The wind was in my face on the backstretch, and I lost a lot of energy there. It was too

hot. I didn't like the conditions."

Earlier, Manuela Machado continued Portuguese women's winning marathon tradition, capturing the opening event in a relatively slow 2 hours, 29 minutes and 54 seconds.

Viktoria Pavlysh of the Ukraine captured the women's shot put, winning with a throw of 19.61 metres in the opening round of the competition. It was Ukraine's first medal in European Championship history.

Astrid Kumbernuss of Germany was second at 19.49 (63-11 1-2). She took the silver medal on a better throw over Svetla Mitkova of Bulgaria, who also threw 19.49 (63-11 1-2). Kumbernuss put 19.11 (62-8 1-2) on her sixth and last attempt to win the silver.

Machado's victory in hot and humid conditions gave the Portuguese a perfect record in women's marathon at the European Championships. Rosa Mota won the three first races in 1982, '86 and '90.

"Rosa Mota will be glad," Machado said after the finish at the Olympic Stadium. "It was the toughest race in my life. My pre-race plan was to try to speed it up at the halfway mark."

The victory also was a birthday present for Machado, who turns 31 on Tuesday.

Her previous best in a major marathon was a silver medal in last year's World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany. She was 10th in the 1990 Europeans.

Maria Curatolo of Italy finished second in 2:30.33 for her best career finish and Adriana Barbu of Romania was third in 2:30.55.

Ornella Ferrara, another Italian, placed fourth in 2:31.57.

Curatolo was the biggest surprise in the race, held before tens of thousands of people.

"I have never trained specifically for the marathon, so the result was a big surprise for me," Curatolo said. "I never hoped for the gold, but I just decided to put all I



France's 400m Olympic champion Marie-José Peres on her way to easy victory in her heat of the event at the European Athletic Championships. The 24-year-old Guadeloupe athlete is currently based in the United States (AFP photo)

could in the race in any case."

In preliminaries of other event, Linford Christie, racing for the first time in more than three weeks, breezed into the semifinals of the men's 100 metres.

Christie, who injured his left hamstring July 16 during a grand prix meet in London where he lost to American Jon Drummond, clocked a slow 10.39 in the first heat, then came back during the evening session to clock an impressive 10.08. He eased off at the finish of both heats.

The British veteran, winner of the 100 in both the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and last year's World Championships, is trying to become the first man since Valery Borzov to win three straight European titles in sprinting's blue-ribbon event.

Borzov double for the Soviet Union at the 1972 summer Olympics at Munich, Germany.

The semifinals and the final are set for Monday evening, in the women's 100, Zhanna Tarnopolskaya of Ukraine led all qualifiers into the semis with a fast 11.01

despite easing off at the finish.

Tarnopolskaya, who clocked 10.13 in the first round of qualifying, was just two hundredths off her seasonal best of 10.99.

European record-holder Irina Privalova of Russia had a 11.20 during the evening session for the second fastest time. The women's semifinal and final are also scheduled Monday evening.

Olympic 800-metre champion Ellen van Langen sustained a hamstring injury early in the week,

Zayak finds new times too tough

ST. PETERSBURG (R) — Former world champion Elaine Zayak revolutionised women's figure skating with arsenal of triple jumps in the early 1980s.

The 29-year-old American became so proficient at triples when she won the 1981 world title that the International Skating Union subsequently limited the number of jumps contestants could take in competition.

But today Zayak could not come close to breaking the rule for which she was responsible.

"Every girl out here can do a triple Lutz-double toe combo, but I can't anymore," Zayak said at the Goodwill Games which finished on Sunday.

The Goodwill Games were a bitter-sweet reminder for Zayak of the standards she set 13 years ago.

Skating under a dispensation allowing professionals to reenter the amateur ranks, the woman who could do eight triples in one program before she turned professional in 1985 could barely manage two in her games' technical programme.

"These days, it's all just too tense," Zayak said. "You just have to go out there and jump or else it's all over."

After singling her double axel and falling on a triple toe-loop, Zayak finished last in the competition.

But dreams die hard in a sport where ice princesses become icons of athleticism, grace and beauty.

Germany's twice olympic champion Katarina Witt, the glamorous queen of figure skating in the 1980s, has faced similar disappointment in renewing her quest for the crown.

Once, unequalled in her precision triples and sultry elegance, Witt could manage only eighth place in the world championships.

"Elaine and Katy might be able to pull it off if they trained really hard and got their weight under control," said twice olympic champion Peggy Fleming. "But the pressure to do jumps today is just smothering."

The lone U.S. woman to return to amateur competition, Zayak is of the skating generation that spent half its time on compulsory figures.

Today those figures are a footnote in skating history, scrapped several years ago so that the new spiffies on ice could concentrate on perfecting their jumps.

The latest star, 14-year-old American Michelle Kwan, won the Goodwill Games silver medal by effortlessly turning out seven triples and two double axels.

Said Zayak: "I'm afraid to try all that now. It hurts when I fall."

In the former champion's heyday, the ritual discipline of brackets, counters and serpentine figures offered a serene prelude to the high-pressure whirlwind of freestyle.

"The compulsory figures relaxed you, calmed you down," Zayak said. "It was so much less nerve-wracking to jump after having patched. Now in free-style, it's do or die."

Zayak may have flopped, but she retains her dreams. "I won the worlds in 1982 and nothing can replace that," she said. "But I'd rather not know too much and be young again and just go out here and skate."

Regis out of 200 metres

HELSINKI (R) — Defending champion John Regis of Britain pulled out of the European Championships 200 metres on Monday after injuring his left Achilles tendon in training, a spokesman for the British team announced.

Regis, who ran a British record 19.87 seconds at the high altitude meeting in Sestriere, Italy on July 31, was the overwhelming favourite to win the gold to add to the four medals he collected at this event four years ago.

It is the second time in two days that the British team have lost a sprinter from these championships.

On Sunday, Solomon Wariso was withdrawn from the 200 metres after being positively tested for the banned stimulant ephedrine.

Team spokesman Tony Ward said: "As I understand it John damaged the tendon training in Monte Carlo this morning. It is a huge blow to the team."

Speaking on BBC Radio from Monte Carlo, Regis said: "The physio has told me that with a week's treatment I should be fit for Zurich next week and the Commonwealth Games."

"I am gutted and disappointed. I'm the defending champion and had to be in with a chance of a medal."

Regis has suffered with a knee problem and an Achilles injury earlier this season, but was in superb form when he ran in Sestriere last week, beating world champion Frankie Fredericks of Namibia for the first time. Only eight men have run faster than the 19.87 seconds clocked by Regis that day.

Although Fredericks avenged that defeat in Monte Carlo last Tuesday, Regis was highly favoured to retain his title in Helsinki.



Egypt's Samir Gouda grabs the rebound from Germany's Henning Harnisch during the first half of their World Championship Basketball game at Maple Leaf Garden in Toronto, Canada (AFP photo)

Goodwill Games struggle into next century

ST. PETERSBURG (R) — The original reason for their existence has disappeared, the crowds stay away and they continue to lose money. Yet somehow the Goodwill Games will struggle into the next century.

Invented by U.S. television tycoon Ted Turner in 1985 as a response to successive Olympic boycotts, a third and distinctly shaky edition of the 16-day multi-sports games finished here on Sunday.

In a farcical end, a group of parachutists landed too early for their part in the closing ceremony, knocking over a line of youths marching with

multi-coloured banners.

The opening day of the games saw the swimming programme postponed for 24 hours because of dirty water.

Pacemakers were openly used in the athletics programme by Moses Kiptannu and Noureddine Morcelli, leading sceptics to wonder why the organisers bothered with a medals ceremony at all when the likely winner was designated in advance.

Then, the combination of a heat wave and Russian incompetence frustrated efforts to get the Yubileiny Ice Rink ready in time for the short track speedskating and figure skating.

At his closing news conference on Sunday, Mr. Turner insisted all the problems had been minor.

"If we could go back and get the ice a day earlier, we would do that," Mr. Turner said. "But I think that's very, very minor. I think it went very well, it was a huge success."

So now the cold war has ended, why bother with the game at all?

For Mr. Turner the answer is simple. Until he fulfils his ambition to buy one of the three major U.S. broadcasting networks he cannot bid for either summer or winter Olympics.

Accordingly, the Goodwill Games still represent the only chance for the former America's cup skipper to televise great chunks of sport.

A total of 117 countries were able to watch television coverage of the games and although Mr. Turner admitted the ratings in the opening

days were disappointing, officials said they had picked up in the second week.

Mr. Turner has reaffirmed his commitment to the games, flying to the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk last week to examine their credentials for staging the 2002 games.

A venue outside either the United States or Russia is a possibility.

"The types of city we would want to look at would be Beijing, Seoul, maybe one of the South African cities," said games President Jack Kelly. "Someone said Dublin the other day."

The 1998 games will be held in New York City. New York State Governor Mario Cuomo flew to Russia for Sunday's closing ceremony.

Bob Johnson, chairman of the 1998 Organisation Committee, said New York's commitment to the games could be measured "in concrete and steel."

"Within the last few months, \$63 million in capital

funds have been committed by New York state and Nassau County leaders to 1998 games," he said.

"The world's best athletes will compete in the world's best facilities, including a new multi-purpose built stadium for track and field and other events."

Mr. Kelly believes a spot remains for a four-yearly multi-sports global competition outside the Olympics.

"Even when we talk about the proliferation of sports, there is still a place beyond the Olympic for another summer multi-sport event," he said.

"The federations don't want us to go away at all. They said to us 'we like the opportunity to have an event where our athletes can come together with other athletes and have an opportunity to be seen around the world.' Mr. Kelly said.

Sloothaak wins show jumping gold

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Germany's Frank Sloothaak jumped four faultless rounds to win his first major show jumping title Sunday, beating Frenchman Michel Robert by just a half fault at the world equestrian games. Robert also completed the four-rider jump-off without knocking down a fence but incurred a half fault time penalty which cost him the gold. Robert's time fault came while he was riding Sloothaak's horse San Patrignano Weihiawej in the second round of a jump off, in which riders mount their own horses and then ride each of the other competitors'. Germany's Soeren von Roenne earned the bronze after picking up just four faults. Another German, Ludger Beerbaum, came fourth with 12 faults. The show jumping completed a memorable games for Germany, which won seven golds, four silvers and five bronzes to top the medal table. France was second with a gold, four silvers and a bronze while the U.S. team was third with its endurance gold, two silvers and a

bronze. Earlier Sunday, Germany picked up individual and team gold in the four-in-hand driving with Michael Freund winning the individual top honors from Britain's George Bowman and the Netherlands' Ijshrand Chardon. Belgium took team silver and the Netherlands bronze. The next World Games will be held in Dublin, Ireland, in 1998.

FOR SALE

Brand new 1994 Honda Civic, with air condition (0.00 km) customs duty unpaid.

Telephone No. 823157

FOR RENT

Furnished apartment, between 3rd and 4th Circles, near Zahran Palace, 2 bedrooms, L-shaped living room, central heating with telephone.

Please call 641604.

LUXURIOUSLY FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

First floor of 220 sq.m. in a two-floor building in the best residential area, between the 4th & 5th Circles (near Guest's Palace), Zahran Street — Jabal Amman, overlooking large beautiful private gardens. Consists of: Large salon, dining room, 2 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully-equipped kitchen, laundry room with fully automatic W.M., 3 balconies. Crystal chandeliers and chosen carpets. Central heating, telephone, colour TV, and video. Car park available. Suitable for a VIP family. Interested, call tel. 671509

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. JUM'RA HAMMAD THE MINISTER OF CULTURE HAYA CULTURAL CENTER

Presents Samar & Khaled Tarazi an exhibition of "POTTERY & GLASS ART" 9 - 11 AUG / 1994 AT The Royal Cultural Center Opening Ceremony Aug. 9 - 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

For more information Tel: 665195 HAYA CENTER



Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

FOR SALE 1990 Mercedes 200-E

Duty not paid, diplomat owned. Navy blue, excellent condition, all options Priced for \$16,800 or best offer.

Contact (office) 658231 - (home) 828235

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR FEASIBILITY AND PROJECT DESIGN OF DISI-MUDAWWARA/AMMAN WATER PROJECT INVITATION NO. 54/94/DSC

The Disi Special Committee in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan invites highly qualified and experienced international consulting firms in association with Class A "Water, Electro-Mechanical, Buildings, and Roads" Jordanian consultant(s), to submit their technical and financial offers for a technical and economic feasibility study and project design of the water conveyance system including (wellfields, pipelines, reservoirs, pumping stations and associated works) from Disi-Mudawwara area to the city of Amman on the basis of the Terms of Reference. International consultants may initially choose to submit their offers without local association. However, the winning international consultant is obligated and therefore requested, before signature of the agreement, to present the above classified local associate(s) for approval by the Disi Special Committee. It is anticipated that the local technical input shall not exceed 35%.

The Project consists of conveying over a length of at least 340 km 80 million cubic metres per annum at a total head of 800 metres. It is intended that the Project will be presented to bilateral or international agencies for financing the construction contract or invite bids for private sector financed BOT/BOO contract.

Terms of reference are available against a written application and the payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 1,000 equivalent to US\$1,500 from the Tenders Division at the Water Authority Headquarters, P.O.Box 2412, Tel. (+) 962 6 680 100, Fax. (+) 692 6 679 143, Amman, Jordan.

International consultants can make their own arrangements with international air courier to pay and collect on their behalf the said Terms of Reference.

Offers are due not later than 1300 hours Jordan local time on Saturday 15 October 1994, to the Office of the Secretary General of the Water Authority/Tenders Division.

Dr. KOUSSAI A. QUTEISHAT
CHAIRMAN OF THE DISI SPECIAL
TENDERING COMMITTEE
SECRETARY GENERAL
WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN

figures are a
cating history,
al years ago so
spitfires on lo
ate, on porpo
ps.
ar, 14-year-old
chelle Kwan,
will Games sil
y effortlessly
en triples and
els.
"I'm afraid to
It hurts when

r champion's
ual discipline
nters and ser
compulsory
a serene prei
high-pressure
estyle.
story figures
calmed you
said. "It was
ave-wracking
ving patched.
le, it's do or

ave flopped,
her dreams,
ords in 1982
can replace
I. "But I'd
v too much
gain and just
skate."

om Ger
f of their
ple Leaf

iced for
235

ILITY

JECT

King-
experien-
tiation
ldings,
it their
al and
of the
fields,
associ-
city of
rence.
se to
lowe-
vigated
of the
local
Com-
input

h of al
m at a
the
tional
act of
/BOO

written
table
in the
quar-
(+)

own
pay
is of
local
of the
nders

Sports

Bremen beat Bayern Munich

MUNICH, Germany (AP) — Michael Schultz scored in the 14th minute of extra time and New Zealand's Wynton Rufer added another 10 minutes later to give Werder Bremen a 3-1 victory over Bayern Munich on Sunday in the German Super Cup.

The victory spoiled the debut of coach Giovanni Trapattoni and striker Jean-Pierre Papin, both having come to the reigning German League champion from the Italian First Division.

The game, played between the reigning German League and cup champions, serves as an unofficial start to the German League season, which kicks off Aug. 20.

It was the second straight Super Cup victory for Bremen, which finished eighth in the Bundesliga season, eight points behind Bayern.

"This game gives me something to think about — we got a lesson from Werder Bremen," Trapattoni said.

Trapattoni, who left Juventus after leading it to a second-place finish in the Italian first division last season, takes over from Franz Beckenbauer, who guided Bayern to a record 13th Bundesliga title last season.

With the acquisition of players such as Papin from AC Milan and Swiss international Alain Sutter, Munich is hoping to regain the European Cup title, an honour it last won in 1976. It last went to the European Cup final in 1987.

Bayern played with 10 men following Oliver Kreuzer's



Bayern Munich's Alain Sutter (left) is challenged by Werder Bremen's Miroslav Votava and Mario Basler (right) during their DFB (German Soccer Federation) Super Cup 1994 (AFP photo)

ejection in the 22nd minute for a professional foul on Bremen's Andreas Herzog as the midfielder closed on the Munich goal.

Bremen took the lead after only two minutes when Russian international Vladimir Beschastnykh scored off a rebound.

It took another 55 minutes

for Bayern to tie it, getting the equaliser from Christian Nerlinger.

Munich's play in the first half lagged after Sutter was injured in the 34th minute on a trip by Bremen defender Ulrich Borowka.

The Swiss midfielder, already a focus of the team's offense, was taken to the

hospital with a possible torn legament.

But Munich recovered in the second half, earning repeated scoring chances with slick combinations.

Bremen got a break in the first half when Thomas Helmer's free kick hit the cross bar.

Nightmare on the cards for Manchester

PARIS (AFP) — England's F.A. Cup and premiership champions Manchester United will be praying little Avenir Beggen can save them from a nightmarish European Champions' Cup return trip to Galatasaray.

Luxembourg's Avenir Beggen, who host the Turkish champions on Wednesday, have realistically no chance of winning their preliminary round tie and joining United in one of four Champions' League groups.

"I thought UEFA might have closed the place after our last visit," said Manchester manager Alex Ferguson of their trip to Ali-Sami-Yen stadium last November.

United's players were assaulted by police, fans were arrested in their hotels for no reason, and missiles were thrown by an aggressive crowd in the second round, first leg tie they eventually lost on away goals.

Ferguson has even threatened to send a reserve team to save his all-star squad from serious injury. However Frenchman Eric Cantona would not be making the trip to the Turkish champions anyway.

The French striker, hit by a policeman's baton, was sus-

pended after being sent off by referee Kurt Rothlisberger in the same match for dissent. Cantona also claimed most European referees were corrupt in a dressing room interview afterwards with a French journalist.

Rothlisberger was recently played between September and December, will go into the quarter-final stage next March, which means teams could play as many as 13 matches to win the event.

Champions AC Milan await the outcome of two lesser known clubs which gave traditionally more powerful clubs a run for their money last season.

Austria's Casino Salzburg face Israel's Maccabi Haifa for a group D spot, also including Milan, Ajax Amsterdam, and the winner's of AEK Athens and Glasgow Rangers.

Six months ago, Salzburg were crippled by debt, but their run to the UEFA Cup final, where they lost to Inter, wiped away their financial problems. Salzburg beat Eintracht Frankfurt, Sporting Lisbon — just after which former England coach Bobby Robson was sacked as Sporting coach — and Royal Antwerp, Cup Winners' Cup

champions AC Milan and seven other clubs with the best European records over the previous five years — have got an automatic bye into the champions' league, which now will contain 16 teams in four groups of four.

The top two in each group, played between September and December, will go into the quarter-final stage next March, which means teams could play as many as 13 matches to win the event.

Champions AC Milan await the outcome of two lesser known clubs which gave traditionally more powerful clubs a run for their money last season.

Austria's Casino Salzburg face Israel's Maccabi Haifa for a group D spot, also including Milan, Ajax Amsterdam, and the winner's of AEK Athens and Glasgow Rangers.

Six months ago, Salzburg were crippled by debt, but their run to the UEFA Cup final, where they lost to Inter, wiped away their financial problems. Salzburg beat Eintracht Frankfurt, Sporting Lisbon — just after which former England coach Bobby Robson was sacked as Sporting coach — and Royal Antwerp, Cup Winners' Cup

finalists in 1992/93 season. Maccabi Haifa only lost to defending champions Parma on penalties in the second round of the Cup-Winners Cup last season after finishing 1-1 on aggregate.

It proved to be the hardest match for Parma, apart from their 1-0 loss in the final to an Alan Smith goal against London side Arsenal.

AC Milan reject Jean-Pierre Papin may have a nostalgic return to the Parc des Princes should Paris Saint Germain overcome Hungary's FC Vax in their preliminary round match.

Papin is now with German champions Bayern Munich, who, along with Spartak Moscow, have a bye through to group B of the Champions' League. Silkeborg of Denmark and Ukraine's Dynamo Kiev play for other spot in the group.

PSG's new coach Luis Fernandez must overcome Janos Czank's team, who won the Hungarian title for the first ever time last season. The last four seasons, Vax have finished at least in the top four in the league after more than a century of anonymity in Hungary as well as Europe.

Cardiff defend Searle after positive drug test

CARDIFF (R) — Cardiff city's Wales under-21 international Damon Searle failed a drugs test after the Welsh Cup final against Barry town in May, the club's medical chief said on Monday.

Searle, who has made more than 200 league cup appearances, now faces a possible charge of bringing the game into disrepute and a lengthy ban.

But the English second division side's medical officer, Dr. Leslie Hamilton, insisted: "This was a genuine mistake and there is a simple explanation. Damon complained of a severe headache before the match. He was supposed to have been given a paracetamol tablet but was

given a distasteful containing a banned substance, in error.

"The tablet he was given contained a narcotic substance. It's not a therapeutic dose. If you were going to give a player a drug, you would give him a stimulant, not one that has a sedative effect."

"It really is very unfair on

Damon. He simply took what he was given — it is not his fault. But we have no idea how the tablet with the banned substance got into the medical bag."

Searle and Cardiff have been asked by the Football Association of Wales (FAW) to provide an explanation before the FAW decide what action, if any, to take.

Morocco and Cameroon suffer football blows

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Morocco and Cameroon, still smarting from humiliating World Cup exits, suffered further blows to their football pride at the weekend.

Former winners Wydad Casablanca were eliminated from the African Champions' Cup after losing 2-0 away to AS Sogara of Gabon in the second round.

And Canon Yaounde made an unexpected exit at the same stage of the Cup-winners' Cup, despite defeating Agaza of Togo 1-0 at home.

The cup ties, originally scheduled for May, were delayed because the countries were preparing for the World Cup finals in the United States.

Morocco lost to Belgium, Saudi Arabia and Holland — the worst performance by an African nation since Zaire flopped in the then West Germany 20 years ago.

Cameroon held Sweden in their opening match, but heavy defeats by Brazil and Russia ensured an early flight home for the Indomitable Lions.

Wydad, who in 1992 became the third Moroccan club to lift the Champions' Cup, were expected to overcome Sogara and reach the quarter-finals.

But a shock 1-0 home defeat two weeks ago left them with a mountain to climb in Libreville, and the peak disappeared from their vision in the second half.

Nigerian Ipaye Wasin, whose four goals helped the Port Genil club reach the quarter-finals last year, converted a 50th minute penalty kick.

With five minutes left, Gahonese international Jonas Ogandaga put the seal on the biggest upset of the competition this year with a second goal.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
\$1000 7000 Made Services, Inc.

A LAST GASP

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ A K 2
♥ 5 4
♦ K J 10 9 8
♣ K 10 9 8

EAST
♠ 7 6 2
♥ 7 8 5 3
♦ A J 9 2
♣ A 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 6
♥ Q 10 9
♦ Q 8 8 3
♣ 7 6 5

The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass 2 NT
Pass 3 NT Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

We have often stressed the importance of counting — both tricks and points. That principle applies to the defenders as much as to declarer, as this hand illustrates.

Note that South did not hang North for overcalling at the two-level. Despite 11 points and two stoppers in the enemy suit, South simply issued an invitation which North, on the strength of the good six-card suit and full values for the

overall, was happy to accept. West led the queen of spades to the three, two and ace. South's ace did not fool West one bit — with the king of spades East would have played some card higher than the queen. At trick two, declarer returned a club to West's ace and the defender took some time to consider the possibilities.

There were seven tricks in dummy for the taking — five clubs and the two high hearts. In addition, declarer had two spade tricks to bring the total to nine. If the contract were to be beaten, the defenders would have to take four more tricks in a hurry.

Only one suit offered any hope and it was not spades. The lone chance was four diamond tricks and to collect those East had to hold either K 10 x or K x x x. Having worked out what partner needed to hold, the defense was easy to find. West shifted to the dummy diamond. East's king won and the return of the ten sealed declarer's fate. Whether or not South covered, the defenders were bound to collect three more diamond tricks for a one-trick set.

FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT IN UM UTHAINA

Consisting of 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, L-shaped salon and dining room, central heating, telephone, deluxe furniture, new building. Suitable for diplomat.

Please call tel. 820259

VACANCY NOTICE No. 62/94

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East has a vacancy for a secretary "C" Grade 08 with a monthly salary starting at JD 277,300 flls and rising in annual increments to JD 419,800 flls. The usual allowances paid by the United Nations may be added, such as children grant etc. The post, which requires a very qualified person, is at Supply and Transport Department - Umm El Hiran, Madaba Road, Amman.

Applicants should have as minimum requirements: (1) complete secondary education; (2) certificate of post secondary secretarial course of at least one year's duration; (3) word processing skills, ability to operate software applications such as Word Perfect, Lotus 123, Paradox and other programmes; (4) five years' experience in secretarial work, of which three years should be in using PC software applications; (5) fluency in English and Arabic (the working language is English) & B.A. in English language would be an asset.

Interested persons may complete a UNRWA application form available at the various UNRWA Offices in Jordan, such as the Field Office in Shmeisani or the Area Office in North Amman (Telephone No. 841260), South Amman (Telephone No. 783791, Zarqa (Telephone No. 89/983899), and Irbid (Telephone No. 02/242294), and submit it together with a recent photo to the Administration Clerks in the mentioned area offices, who will forward such applications to the field personnel officer and deputy field administration officer. Applications may also be sent by mail directly to him at the UNRWA Field Office, P.O.Box 484, Amman.

Deadline for applications is Sunday, 21 August 1994.

T REQUIRED

Free-Lance journalist, English native language, to prepare texts for seminars / sessions / video introduction, for presentation at major International Tourist Meeting, for reputable luxury Flat.O.Tel 30 - 60 days.

Qualified applicants may call for appointment on tel. 816690; or by fax on 863051.

GlobalAccess

70 countries, 70 currencies, 160,000 ATMs, 1 card.

Call or visit any of the BBME branches for details.

Jebel Hussein: Tel: 660471/2 Amman: Tel: 636175/6 Jebel Amman: Tel: 643102/6 Wehdat: Tel: 770810, 770130 Zerka: Tel: (09) 992501/2

The British Bank of the Middle East
Member HSBC Group

البنك البريطاني للشرق الأوسط
HSBC

	Cinema Tel.: 634144	Cinema Tel.: 699238	Cinema Tel.: 677420	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Tel.: 675571	Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155
	PHILADELPHIA	PLAZA	CONCORD	AMMOUN	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	ANLAN THEATRE
	Richard Gere/Sharon Stone in	Sharihan-Mahmoud Hamideh - Hussein Fahmi in	CONCORD '1' PHILADELPHIA Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	John Saxon/Sherrie Rose — in MAXIMUM FORCE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"	Present their play. WHAT A PLACE! (Salim Ya Salim) Daily at 8:30 p.m. The theatre is closed on Tue days
	INTERSECTION	Women's market Arabic	CONCORD '2'	Starring Aug. 15 the political play "SAHRA KANAUNIH"		
	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.	ROBINHOOD Shows: 6:15, 8:30, 10:30			

NEWS IN BRIEF

Germany opens mission in Jericho

JERICHO (R) — Germany opened a mission in Jericho on Monday, becoming the first government to establish a representative office in the Palestinian self-rule area. Two German officials arrived in Jericho on Monday to oversee the opening of the mission. Workmen hung a nameplate on the building which read: "Representative office of the Federal Republic of Germany." The officials immediately went into a meeting with Jericho Mayor Jamil Sabri Khalaf. A spokesman at the German embassy in Tel Aviv said the mission was opened under the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal which launched Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho three months ago. He said the mission, headed by a career diplomat, would oversee German technical and economic assistance to the Palestinian areas.

Man hurt while handling explosives in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A man was slightly injured near Tel Aviv Sunday when an explosive device he was handling went off, police said. The man, whose identity was not revealed, injured his hand when he tried to throw a pipe filled with explosives out of his car window. Police caught him after he tried to flee the scene and began questioning him, the sources said.

Thai police to seek arrest of two Saudis

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thai chief of police Pratin Santiprapop said Monday he was seeking the arrest of two Saudi officials in connection with a five-year-old gems theft case. Mr. Pratin told reporters he had requested warrants for a Saudi embassy official and a Saudi police officer who was here during an investigation into the \$20 million jewel theft from a Saudi palace in 1989. A Thai servant was arrested on returning home and convicted of the theft, but not all of the jewels were returned to the owner, and much of what was returned was fake. There was evidence to indicate both Saudi officials had been accomplices in the disappearance of some of the gems, Mr. Pratin said. He did not elaborate. Saudi Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Said Khoja cast doubt Monday on the allegations, saying Thai authorities were wasting time through such "manoeuvres" and should complete the investigation, which has dragged on for five years.

'Voice of Palestine' ends broadcasts from Algiers

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has ended its radio broadcasts from Algiers. "The voice of Palestine" had broadcast an hour a day over Algerian radio since 1966. PLO officials said Monday the exile station had been replaced by a Palestinian radio operating from the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the installation of a PLO-led Palestinian authority.

Two Fins held by Kurdish separatists

ANKARA (R) — Kurdish separatist guerrillas kidnapped two Finnish tourists at the weekend after stopping their car in broad daylight at a roadblock in southeastern Turkey, local officials said on Monday. The pair are still missing, but their car was recovered on Saturday along the highway between the provincial capital of Tunceli and the town of Pulumur in the largely Kurdish southeast, officials said. Turkish security officials identified the surnames of the two men as Hektakainen, born in 1967, and Pollari, born in 1974. No other details were immediately available. A spokeswoman for the Finnish embassy confirmed the names but said she was awaiting further information from the Turkish foreign ministry.

Gulf Air to resume flights to Sanaa

DUBAI (R) — Gulf air has decided to resume flights later this month to the Yemeni capital Sanaa, which were interrupted by Yemen's civil war, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) official news agency reported on Monday. The Emirates news agency quoted an official at Gulf Air, which is jointly owned by the government of Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and UAE member Abu Dhabi, as saying the airline would fly from Abu Dhabi to Sanaa twice a week. Regular commercial flights to Yemen were halted by a two-month civil war which ended in the defeat of southern secessionists on July 7.

Kabul starts probe into journalist's murder

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani has ordered an investigation into the July murder of an Afghan journalist, the president's special envoy Masood Khalili said here Monday. "We have initiated the investigation following a request from Amnesty International," Khalili told reporters here. The journalist, Mr. Wais Jalili, 25, who was working with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in Kabul, was abducted on July 29 by unidentified gunmen while returning from an interview with Mr. Rabbani's rival Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. His body was found the next day in Kabul's Chelsitoun suburb, which is mainly controlled by Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezbe-Islami forces. A Hezbe statement in Pakistan blamed the killing on Mr. Rabbani's secret service, saying the motive for the murder was to discredit Mr. Hekmatyar's party.

PLO security chief returns to Jericho

JERICHO (R) — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official returned to the West Bank after years of exile on Monday to take charge of national security in the Palestinian self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho, witnesses said. Hakam Balawi, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's appointee to head Palestinian national security with the rank of a cabinet member, crossed the King Hussein Bridge from Jordan to Jericho where he was welcomed by PLO officials and relatives. PLO officials have been trickling home to manage Gaza and Jericho since Israel turned the areas over in May under terms of a peace deal with the PLO. Mr. Arafat himself has lived in Gaza since July.

Velayati calls for closer ties with India

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati called Monday for boosting relations and cooperation with India during a meeting with an Indian Muslim leader, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said. Mr. Velayati, in the meeting with Seyyed Abdullah Bukhari, praised existing cooperation between the two countries and called for an exchange of high-level delegations. "Such exchanges would have positive impact on the expansion of mutual ties," he said calling also for Muslim shrines, praised Iran's "contributions in establishing unity" among the world's Shiite and Sunni Muslims, IRNA said. "The enemies of Islam are trying to sow discord among Muslims," warned the prayer leader of New Delhi's main mosque.

Eight killed in floods in Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Eight southern Sudanese were killed in floods that swept through a refugee camp near the capital Khartoum, a local newspaper said on Monday. The state-owned English-language New Horizon said torrential rains had destroyed many homes across Sudan in recent days. The eight died in Jabal Aulia camp, which houses southern Sudanese refugees some 45 kilometres south of Khartoum, after heavy rains in Khartoum last week and flooding into the camp from the Managil canal to the southeast. Some 120 dwellings were destroyed and 26,000 families exposed to water-borne diseases and malaria, New Horizon said. The paper said the worst affected by the rains were those who had been forcefully removed from squatter camps in Khartoum and sent to Jabal Aulia.



His Majesty King Hussein, flanked by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State, addresses a joint press conference in Aqaba on Monday (Petra photo)

High-level PLO team said due here in 10 days

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials returned to Jericho on Monday after preparing for the visit of a high-level team to Jordan in the next 10 days for talks on Jerusalem and other outstanding issues related to economy and security, Palestinian sources said.

They said the aim of the visit by Yasser Abed Rabbo, "minister" of information in the Palestinian self-rule territories of Gaza and Jericho, and Faisal Hussein, also a member of the Palestine National Authority (PNA), was to pave the way for a visit of a PLO team at "ministerial level" to discuss the issues. "The delegation discussed arrangements for the visit, which should take place in the next 10 days," a Palestinian source told the Jordan Times. According to the source, the PLO delegation will also discuss "economic and security issues" — a reference to the outstanding economic cooperation agreement which PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has declined to ratify.

No Jordanian comment was immediately available. Omar Khathir, the acting chief of the PLO mission here, confirmed in comments carried by the AP that Mr. Abed Rabbo and Mr. Hussein also discussed economic and security cooperation with Mr. Hassan.

The PLO delegation's visit came against the backdrop of a controversy sparked by the

PLO over Israel's acknowledgement of Jordan's historic role as guardian of the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem.

The Israeli acknowledgement came in the Washington Declaration signed by His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on July 25. Jordan has repeatedly said since then that the acknowledgement did not have any bearing on the Palestinian quest for political sovereignty over Jerusalem and that it was up to the Palestinians and Israel to negotiate and finalise the political status of the city.

Despite the repeated Jordanian assurances that the Kingdom's religious role in the Holy City did not have any political bearings, the PLO has lodged protests with Israel, the United States, a co-sponsor of the peace process, the United Nations and the Arab League.

Mr. Arafat, who is arguing that the Israeli move undermined the PLO's political quest, also vented his anger by banning a Jordanian-leaning newspaper, Al Nahar, from the self-rule areas.

The PLO chairman also accused Mr. Rabin of violating the Israel-PLO autonomy agreement and demanded immediate negotiations on the status of Jerusalem. The autonomy accord puts off discussions on the final status of the Holy City until 1996.

Mr. Rabin rejected Mr. Arafat's demand but reiterated his commitment to negotiate the status of Jerusalem as scheduled in the

self-rule accord.

In talks with Mr. Abed Rabbo and Mr. Hussein on Sunday, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Hassan reaffirmed Jordan's stand "over the issue of Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem and the continued Hashemite Jordanian role in exercising religious jurisdiction over them."

According to Palestinian sources, the PLO leadership is divided over the issue: One school of thought acknowledges the validity of the Jordanian argument and would like a quiet approach to the issue in tandem with the Kingdom. Another sees the Israeli move as a subterfuge to undermine the Palestinian claim to Jerusalem.

"The second school, which is headed by Mr. Arafat, believes in making as much noise as possible over the issue," said one Palestinian source. "The first, which includes mostly pro-Jordanians in the self-rule authority, mainly in the middle level, is arguing that a joint approach with Jordan towards the issue will be the most productive."

The dispatch of Mr. Abed Rabbo and Mr. Hussein was decided by a meeting of the Palestine National Authority last week. The PLO delegation expected to visit Jordan will include several ministers in the PNA, including Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi, Yasser Amer and Mr. Abed Rabbo, as well as Al Tayyeb Abdul Rabin, the former Palestinian ambassador to Jordan who is now secretary-general of the PNA.

Hamas: PNA is acting like occupying power

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The main Islamic opposition group in the Palestinian self-rule areas criticised the leadership of Yasser Arafat Monday, saying his government was acting like Israeli occupiers. The leaflet distributed by the Islamic Resistance Movement, or Hamas, was its sharpest attack yet on the administration of Mr. Arafat since it took over the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho in May.

"It is very strange to see the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) performing the actions similar to the acts of occupiers and invaders," said the leaflet.

It said the Palestinian government often appeared to be carrying out Israel's orders. "They are arresting the mujahideen (holy fighters), chasing and trying them to serve the Zionists," the leaflet added.

Hamas warned it would confront the actions of Mr. Arafat's government. It has already staged a number of protests, including a sit-down by 600 people last week in Gaza against Mr. Arafat stacking the municipal council with loyalists and keeping out opposition groups.

"They (PNA) must know that our masses that rejected and confronted the occupation measures will confront similar acts from any side whatsoever," the leaflet said. The two-page communique said Mr. Arafat appeared incapable of standing up to the Israelis no matter what they did to the Palestinian National Authority supervising autonomy.

It said it was shameful that

Mr. Arafat was not able to travel in and out of Gaza without notifying Israel and had not been able to reach Jericho in the West Bank because the safe-passage agreement had not been implemented. Israel said Monday it would issue special passes for the 19-member PNA, including Mr. Arafat.

"All what Arafat is doing is complaining to the Israeli media about his humiliation and frustrations from Rabin," the leaflet said.

Hamas also criticised Mr. Arafat for his crackdown on the Palestinian press. The authority banned distribution of Al Nahar daily.

Closing the paper left the two million Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza with just one daily paper, the pro-Arafat Al Quuds.

"What kind of peace we are talking about? What kind of nationality does the authority claim?" the leaflet said.

Police protect Israelis

Palestinian police have been stepping in to protect Israeli soldiers from stone-throwing youths in the Gaza Strip, in a reversal of roles produced by the Gaza-Jericho autonomy accord, witnesses said Monday.

Palestinian police Sunday pushed back local youths who had broken through a sand barrier into an army base, smashing spotlights and throwing stones at Israeli soldiers.

The police released an 11-year-old boy whom the Israelis had arrested and beaten up, witnesses said.

France holds 23 more in security crackdown

PARIS (AFP) — French police arrested 23 people overnight Sunday in operations following threats from Algerian Islamic fundamentalists, police said Monday.

In operations across Paris police stopped 1,400 cars and questioned over 2,000 people, leading to the 23 arrests. Some 30 people, including a number of foreigners whose papers were not in order, were helping police with their enquiries following a similar sweep the previous night.

The Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), the armed wing of Algeria's fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) threatened Saturday to exact reprisals inside France unless 17 FIS supporters, currently being held in the northeastern French village of Folembay, are released.

The 17 were detained on the orders of the interior ministry Friday and have all been served with deportation orders although no country has yet been found to take them.

They were picked up in the wake of the assassination of five French government officials by suspected fundamentalists outside Algiers Wednesday.

France is taking the AIS threat seriously and security has been tight ened accordingly, mainly in the capital.

In Paris two train stations, the Gare de l'Est and Gare de Lyon, were both closed for a time Sunday afternoon following telephone calls claiming bombs had been planted. Both calls turned out to be hoaxes.

The Algerian-Islamic ques-

tion has sparked much debate in the French press. The centre-left Liberation paper said: "Does France have the right to oppose an Islamist-dominated regime coming to power in Algeria?"

The FIS were poised to sweep to power in Algeria when in January 1992 the military stepped in to cancel the second round of elections.

The centre-right Le Figaro said: "France, despite itself, is about to become embroiled in a civil war which will return Algeria to a new middle-ages."

French foreign ministry spokesman Richard Dague said Monday that Britain, Germany and the United States had all indicated they share France's concern over the situation in Algeria.

He said all three countries had been contacted via diplomatic channels at the end of last week and asked to prevent Algerian Islamic officials on their soil from engaging in political activities.

"All our partners have expressed sympathy and sent their condolences," he said, referring to the murders in Algiers.

On Thursday Interior Minister Charles Pasqua said "diplomatic approaches" would be made to the three countries asking them to "neutralise" FIS activists living there.

A British Foreign Office spokesman said Friday Algeria was free as long they abided by the law, adding some individuals claimed to have responsibilities within the FIS.

COLUMN

Peru's first lady plans to return home

LIMA (R) — Peru's first lady Susana Higuchi said she had abandoned government palace over a "difference of ideas" with her husband, President Alberto Fujimori, but because of "marital discord" and added she planned to return home. In a television interview, Mrs. Higuchi also said she was considering running for president to challenge what she termed was an unconstitutional law barring members of the president's family from running for office. "There are differences over ideas and work and there are marital problems," Mrs. Higuchi said when asked why she left presidential palace. "It is clear that this week the differences over ideas become strong and well-known but that was not the case with marital problems." Mrs. Higuchi left government palace Thursday, the same day her letter to each of Peru's 80 congressmen and the attorney general was published. It complained that an article of the law setting the rules for next April's vote was unconstitutional. Mrs. Higuchi said she had decided to take "a sort of vacation" in the home of her friend and former personal assistant Rene Odria in a well-to-do neighbourhood of the capital "to meditate in my own way without pressures." "In answer to the question will I return, of course (I will)," she added.

Thousands get insider's view of Buckingham Palace

LONDON (R) — Thousands of tourists visited Buckingham Palace, Queen Elizabeth's London home, when it opened its doors to visitors for the second year Sunday. The 4,500 timed entry tickets to 18 luxurious state rooms were sold by midday. A few people even queued overnight. "We've had a good day and are very pleased," a palace spokesman said. For the £8 (\$12.30) admission price, tourists got a glimpse of the royal residence including the throne room and galleries with masterpieces by Rembrandt and Leonardo Da Vinci. But as tourists trekked through the palace a row erupted over suggestions by opposition Labour politician Marjorie Mowlan who said a new modern palace should be built for the queen. In an article in the Mail On Sunday newspaper Mr. Mowlan said Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, west of the capital, were too old-fashioned and should be sold. "Frankly I think it's bizarre," National Heritage Secretary Stephen Dorrell told British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Television. "It doesn't show proper respect for this country's history. We should be seeking to draw strength from our history, not cut ourselves off from it," he added. Buckingham Palace, which was opened to the public for two months for the first time last year, proved to be a huge success. It attracted 379,000 visitors and made a net profit of £2.2 million (\$3.4 million).

2 wrongly jailed for 20 years get \$385 each

MANILA (R) — The Philippine government approved Monday the grant of 10,000 pesos (\$385) in compensation for 2 Filipinos held without charge for 20 years who have been ordered freed by the Supreme Court. Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon told aides to give Leonardo Paquinto and Jesus Cabangonay the money, which is the maximum allowed under law. The two Filipinos will get 500 pesos (\$19.25) for every year they were in jail, officials said. In a decision released Friday, the 15-person Supreme Court ordered the pair released and castigated the government for blocking their release when records of the case were lost in a blaze at a military camp during a coup attempt in 1989. "It is illogical and even absurd that because the government cannot prosecute them, the prisoners' detention must continue. (They) should not be detained in prison a minute longer. They are ordered released immediately," the court declared in a seven-page decision.